

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing in support of SB135 with the -1 and -2 amendments, to strengthen regulation of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

SB135, as amended, would:

- Make the employer, in addition to the practitioner, legally accountable for adhering to existing Oregon law governing the practice of behavior analysis.
- Clarify that the unlicensed practice of Applied Behavior Analysis is illegal
- Give the Health Licensing Office the authority to take enforcement action against unlicensed providers.

I am a developmental and clinical psychologist who employs a licensed psychologist and multiple registered interventionists providing clinic and home-based ABA services. I also serve on the Oregon Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB). It is critical that we provide individuals and families with competent, well-trained and well-supervised professionals and para-professionals, as we support the growth and development of this vulnerable population. Our paraprofessionals are supervised weekly either in the home or in the clinic and are not in the home without another responsible adult present. We are focused on issues of quality and ethics as individuals work intensively in home, community and clinic environments. Requiring greater accountability for employers serving individuals with autism spectrum disorder is one important step toward assuring better service and greater protection.

I urge your support of SB135 with the proposed amendments.

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