

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I'm 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 and give the Health Licensing Office the authority to take enforcement action against unlicensed providers.

My son was diagnosed with Autism and Sensory Processing Disorder when he was 3 years old. He is now 6 years old and he is on his 7th school/daycare. I was desperate to find a way to help my son be accepted and functional in a world that is not kind to his special needs. He has been treated with ABA therapy for over 3 years now. ABA therapy has corrected some of the behaviors that he has that keep him from being included in all important areas of life such as school and friendships. Our ABA provider works with me, educates myself and trains me with the same methods so that we can consistently work on making my son's life easier for him but helping him navigate his daily activities. I am forever grateful to have this resource and feel that all families should be able to access ABA therapy for their children at school and at home. The data that the ABA therapist has collected over the years, shows and confirms what I already know, ABA therapy works.

Thank you,

Erin Howell