

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing in support of SB 135 with the -1 and -2 amendments to strengthen regulation of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

SB 135 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.

As a clinical psychologist for 30 years at Oregon Health Science University, I (Leif Terdal) worked with many families with children on the autism spectrum, and I know how essential it is for children to receive applied behavior therapy from a licensed provider.

As grandparents of two boys with high functioning autism, we know how helpful ABA therapy can be. Our older grandson was unable to eat any solid food because of sensitivity issues, until at age 7, he spent seven weeks at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore receiving intensive behavior therapy. Now he can eat a variety of foods. Academically he does well at Access Academy, but has difficulty with social interaction and making friends. He needs ongoing ABA therapy.

Leif Terdal, PhD, and Marjorie Terdal, PhD