



March 26, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

**Subject: HB 2421**

Chair Nosse and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Licensing Committee of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) to strongly recommend approval of **HB 2421** which is being considered by the Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare.

The Association for Behavior Analysis is the international professional organization for behavior analysis, the natural science of behavior. It is uniquely positioned to address issues that arise regarding the profession of behavior analysis, including related to licensure of behavior analysts.

The Committee strongly supports the language in **HB 2421**. Enactment of the revised language in the statute will provide even greater protection of the citizens of Oregon. I have outlined the ways in which the bill will result in better protections for the citizens of Oregon and for the effective, ethical practice of behavior analysis in Oregon:

- Requiring behavior analysts to report suspected abuse of children and vulnerable people, a requirement not currently required by Oregon statute;
- Banning gay conversion therapy;
- Requiring behavior analysts to report unprofessional conduct, arrests, and convictions as are other healthcare professionals in Oregon (current statutory requirements do not require licensed providers of behavior analysis services to do so);
- Providing authority for disciplinary sanctions of Registered Behavior Analysis Technicians who engage in unprofessional or prohibited behaviors, an authority currently not available to the Health Licensing Office;
- Recognizing that applied behavior analysis services are applicable to and effective for people with widely varying needs, interests, abilities, and diagnoses.

The House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare is strongly urged to positively recommend the bill and then facilitate its being approved by the House.

Thank you for your consideration of these commendations and the anticipated actions for the common good of the people of Oregon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gordon Bourland, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gordon Bourland, Ph. D., BCBA-D, LBA Chair, ABAI Licensing Committee

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