



March 12, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 135 – **SUPPORT with Amendments 1 and 2**

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) is the world's largest organization treating autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the nation's third largest non-governmental organization contributing to autism research. CARD provides services to individuals of all ages at over 230 locations throughout the United States, including 16 locations in Oregon.

CARD commends Chair Monnes Anderson for her efforts to ensure that Oregonians affected by autism spectrum disorder benefit from this additional consumer protection and avenue through which to voice concerns and make complaints when autism treatment providers implement practices contrary Oregon rules adopted under ORS 676.810 or 676.815. Like Oregon, the majority of states have enacted licensure laws related to behavior analysts, and Oregon's law currently requires all ABA providers to be licensed when they provide treatment "for the purpose of treating a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder." CARD has encountered a variety of license and practice acts in many of the 33 states where we have locations, and we feel strongly that no stakeholder benefits from a lack of clarity in the laws that govern the practice of applied behavior analysis (ABA). For example, if an ABA provider inadvertently failed to comply with Oregon's requirement that behavior interventionists be registered with the state, it is likely that insurers and health plans would be within their rights to deny or recoup payments for services provided to their beneficiaries that failed to comply with state law. SB 135 would provide the clarity that all stakeholders need to ensure top-quality services, consumer safety, and reliable reimbursement by insurers and health plans.

On behalf of CARD, I respectfully urge you to support SB 135 with Amendments 1 and 2 and vote yes. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please consider me a highly accessible resource for your staff and you. I can be reached via email at J.Kornack@centerforautism.com or directly at (818) 345-2345, extension 1070.

Sincerely,

Julie Kornack
Director of Public Policy