

ANCHOR ACADEMY

Applied Behavior Analysis Early Intervention

March 12, 2019

Re: SB 135

Dear Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony on SB 135. I am a Doctoral-level Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D) and Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) with the State of Oregon. I am writing this testimony in support of SB 135, *with edits to the -2 amendment of the bill*.

Ensuring that the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is regulated appropriately is an important next step in providing better consumer protection. I agree that it is important to clarify that all practitioners of ABA must be registered or licensed to practice in Oregon.

Below are recommended revisions to SB 135 as proposed, with a rationale for each revision:

1. I recommend deleting “**for the purpose of treating a mental, emotional or behavioral disorder**” from section 3(2). The scope of practice of behavior analysis is already defined in the current licensure statute. Specifying certain populations, conditions or disorders is unnecessary, and is inconsistent with the statutory definitions of the scopes of practice of most licensed professions.
2. I recommend adding the following exemptions to section 3 (2), to exempt members of our field who do not work with vulnerable members of the public:
 - a. Behavior analysts who practice with nonhumans, including applied animal behaviorists and animal trainers. Such individuals may use the title “behavior analyst” but may not represent themselves as Licensed Behavior Analysts or Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts unless licensed in the state of Oregon.
 - b. Professionals who provide general applied behavior analysis services to organizations, so long as those services are for the benefit of the organizations and do not involve direct services to individuals. Such professionals may use the title “behavior analyst” but may not represent themselves as Licensed Behavior Analysts or Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts unless licensed in the state of Oregon.

- c. Individuals who teach behavior analysis or conduct behavior-analytic research, provided that such activities do not involve the direct delivery of applied behavior analysis services beyond the typical parameters of applied research. Such individuals may use the title "behavior analyst" but may not represent themselves as Licensed Behavior Analysts or Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts unless licensed in the state of Oregon.

With the above recommended edits, I strongly support SB 135. In particular, I hope that SB 135 -2 will clarify that all providers of ABA services must be licensed or registered to practice, thereby providing improved consumer protection and regulation of the practice of behavior analysis in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alice Keyl Austin', written over a horizontal line.

Alice Keyl Austin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA

AKA Consulting, Inc - Anchor Academy

11481 SW Hall Blvd. Suite 104

Portland, OR 97223

Mobile: 971-258-5555

alice@anchoracademypdx.com