



To the Senate Committee on Healthcare:

I am writing as Brenda Hancock, an Early Childhood Education Specialist, NWRES D. I am writing to oppose the proposed amendments to Senate Bill 135. In particular Amendment 2, which addresses the BCBA certification. As an education specialist, I know the value of our school professionals, and I feel that the current legislation is already working to provide the assistance our children need.

The students who benefit from ABA will feel significant losses if these changes were to be implemented. This is especially true since current ABA standards are serving them so well. Our goals should be to make sure there are qualified, trained specialists in every setting, not to create a more arduous and unnecessary certification standard.

In addition, Amendment 2 will disqualify those professionals who are currently providing required educational services (which may include ABA strategies) throughout the State of Oregon, creating a hardship for those children that depend on them.

SB135 and amendment 2 will create unintended consequences when helping provide services for children with ASD and their families. While it is always preferable that caregivers strive to continuously improve, mandatory BCBA certification is not the answer.

I urge you to vote no on this amendment.

Sincerely,

Brenda Hancock

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