



I am Anna Bullard with the Behavior Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE). We are the only accreditation body for autism providers providing Applied Behavior Analysis. We have over 400+ accredited providers nationwide with 3 accredited providers in Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on SB355 and SB358.

I personally have a daughter who was diagnosed with autism at age 2.5 years old. She was nonverbal and the prognosis was that she would be in a special education classroom and need assistance her whole life. Because of the quality ABA that she received, she is now in 11th grade, she is verbal, top of her class, participates in sports and will be able to live an independent life.

The Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE) is writing in support of SB355. We also support SB358 as long as the proposed -1 amendment is approved to remove the provision changing the title "Registered Behavior Analysis Interventionist" to "Licensed Behavior Analysis Interventionist."

We are asking that the below items be considered with utmost importance in addition to the proposed amendment to SB358.

- Extending the sunset clause on SB365(2013): Autism Health Insurance Reform – including coverage of ABA – to the year 2030
- Adding behavior analysts to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse
- Requiring behavior analysts to report criminal convictions and unprofessional conduct -- just like every other health profession
- Prohibiting behavior analysts from practicing gay conversion therapy on youth under the age of 18 (other professions have already been prohibited from this, but not behavior analysts)
- Putting behavior analysts on the same footing as all other behavioral health providers for working with teens
- Requiring the Health Licensing Office staff and attorneys to consult with the Oregon Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board before taking disciplinary action against behavior analysts (while this is their current practice, it should be stated in the law as it is for other professions)
- Providing the board with enforcement authority over people who falsely claim to be Licensed Behavior Analysts

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Committee on the importance of ABA therapy. Should you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

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