

March 3, 2021

Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
S-215
Salem, OR 97301

Re: In Support of SB 355; *Delays sunset of requirement that health insurance reimburse cost of applied behavior analysis for autism spectrum disorder*

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee -

On behalf of The Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP), thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on SB 355, regarding health benefit plan coverage for the screening, diagnosis and medically necessary treatment (including applied behavior analysis) for autism spectrum disorder. CASP is a non-profit association of provider organizations committed to evidence-based care. CASP represents the autism provider community to the nation at large including government, payers, and the general public. We serve as a force for change, providing information and education and promoting standards that enhance quality.

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the standard and essential treatment for autism spectrum disorder. Oregon was one of the first states to recognize this by requiring health plans to cover ABA. Coverage for ABA is now required through most private and public health insurance in all 50 states. Delaying the sunset of Section 2, chapter 771, Oregon Laws 2013 is critical to allow continued access to medically necessary services for individuals with autism in Oregon.

We urge the committee to support passage of SB 355.

CASP would be happy to serve as a resource for the committee if there any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Wasmer
Vice President, Government Affairs & Special Projects