

Submitter: Anne Kayser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2421

HB2421 is extremely important because it enhances patient safety and fixes critical licensing and regulatory issues with the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy in Oregon. Right now, professionals who provide one-on-one behavior analysis and intervention with autistic children and youth do not have to report suspected child abuse or prohibited conduct by other licensees. There is no recourse for the Health Licensing Office to take in the event of misconduct by an ABA provider working directly with disabled clients. This has to change.

HB2421 addresses these issues. It would hold ABA providers accountable in the same ways and to the same standards as all other similar professionals. There are currently more than 1800 people licensed or registered to practice ABA therapy in Oregon. Since the passage of the Autism Health Insurance Reform bill in 2013, many practitioners have entered this field, impacting tens of thousands of Oregon's young people. Our state needs to ensure that these professionals abide by the same rules governing other healthcare providers and teachers.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important bill.

Anne Kayser

Parent, care provider and private tutor