



Mission: Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

March 27, 2023

Chair Rob Nosse

Vice-Chair Christine Goodwin

Vice-Chair Travis Nelson

Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

RE: HB 2421 – Critical Applied Behavior Analysis Licensing and Regulatory Fixes

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that works toward a future where communities are accessible to, inclusive of, and empower the self-determination of, people with disabilities. We support families, youth with disabilities, and partners to hold high expectations and set positive trajectory, navigate special education and disability systems and services, and advocate for the supports and opportunities youth need to thrive at home, in school, and in community. Since 2012, we have served as the state and federally designated Parent Training and Information Center for special education and have been a member of the Oregon Consortium of Family Networks. Currently, we serve and represent nearly 7,000 families of youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Multnomah and Washington counties.

FACT Oregon spends a great deal of time supporting families navigating disability systems and believes that if they choose to use Applied Behavior Analysis, then licensing and regulation of ABA Therapy needs to have critical gaps addressed to ensure patient safety and well-being, including:

- **Child abuse reporting:** ABA therapists are currently exempt from the responsibility to report child abuse, unlike many other professionals that have any contact with children.
- **Professional misconduct by ABA interventionists:** The Health Licensing Office currently has NO authority to discipline the Registered Behavior Analysis Interventionists who work most closely with disabled children, without direct supervision. This drafting error means that even if an interventionist is convicted of abusing a patient, there is no way to even rescind their registration authorizing them to practice ABA.
- **Duty to report unprofessional conduct, arrests, and convictions:** Require ABA professionals to report prohibited or unprofessional conduct by other licensees or their own criminal convictions, as required by all other health professionals.

FACT Oregon asks for your support of HB 2421 to ensure these critical gaps are addressed.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Christy Reese, Executive Director

FACT Oregon