



February 10th, 2025

Honorable Representative Rob Nosse
Chair, House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2023 with Necessary Amendments

Dear Representative Nosse and the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Miranda Drake and I serve as the Executive Advisor of Clinical Operations at the Center for Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA). I am also a member of the Oregon Association of Behavior Analysis (ORABA) and am an active member of the Public Policy Committee. I am writing in strong support of HB 2023, which aims to establish health insurance coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ensuring parity with coverage for autism spectrum disorder diagnoses. This legislation is a crucial step toward increasing access to evidence-based treatment for a broader population in need.

While I fully support the intent of HB 2023, I must acknowledge critical concerns regarding age of diagnosis restrictions and hour caps, which must be addressed to ensure compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA).

Concerns & Recommendations:

1. **Age Restrictions:** Limiting ABA therapy coverage based on an individual's age creates an arbitrary barrier to necessary care and conflicts with MHPAEA. Access to ABA should be based on medical necessity rather than age, as individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities benefit from intervention at all stages of life.
2. **Hour Caps:** Imposing rigid caps on therapy hours fails to account for the varying intensity of services required to meet individual needs. Such limits violate both MHPAEA and PPACA, which mandate that mental and behavioral health services be covered on par with medical and surgical benefits. Coverage determinations should be data-driven and based on medical necessity rather than artificial limitations.

The Importance of HB 2023

Expanding ABA coverage to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is a long-overdue measure that will significantly improve access to essential, evidence-based interventions. The passage of this bill will allow more individuals to develop



communication, social, and daily living skills that enhance their quality of life and independence.

However, for HB 2023 to truly uphold equitable access, the legislation must be revised to remove barriers contradicting federal and state parity laws. I respectfully urge the committee to amend the bill to remove age restrictions and hour caps, ensuring that individuals receive medically necessary care as required by law.

I appreciate the committee's commitment to improving behavioral health services in Oregon and urge a "yes" vote on HB 2023 with the necessary amendments. Thank you for your time and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Miranda Drake

Miranda Drake, BCBA

Executive Advisor of Clinical Operations
Center for Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA)
mdrake@centerforaba.com
503-347-2848