



2/10/2025

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

Dear Representative Nosse,

As an employee of Autism Spectrum Therapies, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2023, which proposes to establish health insurance coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) diagnoses, ensuring parity with coverage for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnoses. This legislation is crucial for expanding access to essential ABA services for a broader population in need.

Autism Spectrum Therapies provides services to children and adults with ASD. My caseload is comprised of 10 clients and my colleagues have similarly-sized caseloads; we have an ongoing waitlist of families as well. Our clients primarily live in Washington and Multnomah counties. Client needs vary considerably, ranging from communication and social skills to dangerous behaviors for reduction such as self-injury and property destruction. Our services emphasize teaching safe and appropriate replacement behaviors and increasing clients' independence across skill domains and routines in their lives. We work side-by-side with clients' families to ensure that the goals being worked on are meaningful for clients in all aspects of their lives. There are 10 BCBA's at Autism Spectrum Therapies in Beaverton and Clackamas and we have several advanced behavior technicians and lead technicians who are pursuing their BCBA certifications. It is vital that we continue to train future BCBA's in order to meet the growing need of ABA services in Oregon.

Allowing individuals with IDD to access ABA services aligns with Oregon's commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and healthcare equity. Individuals with IDD should not be denied the benefits of ABA therapy due to limitations in insurance coverage. Research has consistently demonstrated the efficacy of ABA in improving the quality of life, independence, and functional skills of individuals with a wide range of disabilities and needs. If individuals with IDD are able to access the support they need, this will lead to reduced long-term costs associated with untreated developmental challenges and improved overall community well-being. I urge the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare to vote "YES" on HB 2023 and uphold the rights of individuals with IDD to receive the same standard of care as those with ASD.

Thank you for your time and service to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Zoey Watts, M.S., BCBA, LBA
Autism Spectrum Therapies
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