

Submitter: Amy Fellows  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2023

February 11, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare  
RE: HB2023

Rep Nosse and members of the committee-

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to HB 2023 which would expand health insurance coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to additional categories of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities including Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy. I am very concerned that the ABA Industrial Complex which Oregon already spends over \$40M a year through Oregon Health Plan (not including private insurance) on to compliance train Autistic children, sometimes 6 hours a day is now looking for other vulnerable populations to make money off of.

ABA is widely known to cause cPTSD and many Autistics who have experienced it as children are now speaking out against it. ABA is NOT mental health therapy and the under-trained staff working directly with children, the Behavior Techs are often trained as little as 30 hours and have no mental health training. More can be learned about this in the book *The Gold Star Fallacy of ABA: a Reference Guide for Therapists, Educators and Parents* by Speech Language Pathologist Julie Roberts, MS, CCC-SLP. (<https://therapistndc.org/connect-with-julie/> )

In 2020, the Department of Defense produced their study finding that ABA done for children of active duty military personal was found to be either ineffective or harmful the majority of the time and chose to stop paying for the service. (<https://therapistndc.org/aba-is-not-effective-so-says-the-latest-report-from-the-department-of-defense/> )

Trying to compliance train children with epilepsy, down syndrome or cerebral palsy is incredibly dangerous and quite frankly a money grab from an industry that is looking for more customers since there has been more push back from the Autistic community. The ABA industry additionally is getting in to dementia care as well and I hope Oregon will be proactive in protecting our elders from this abuse.

I urge you to not approve HB2023 which would allow the ABA Industrial Complex to

come for yet another vulnerable population of children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Fellows, MPH  
Disability Justice and Family Advocate