

February 11th, 2025

Honorable Representative Rob Nosse

Chair, House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

900 Court Street NE, Rm 453

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2023

Dear Representative Nosse,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2023 to expanding access to ABA services for a broader population.

John O. Cooper, the author of “Applied Behavior Analysis,” describes ABA as “a science devoted to the understanding and improvement of human behavior... what sets applied behavior analysis apart? The answer lies in its focus, goals, and methods. Applied behavior analysts focus on objectively defined behaviors of social significance; they intervene to improve the behaviors under study while demonstrating a reliable relationship between their interventions and the behavioral improvements; they use the methods of scientific inquiry—objective description, quantification, and controlled experimentation.”

ABA therapy focuses on creating meaningful interventions that are designed to help individuals by understanding the purpose behind a behavior and equipping them with a voice, whether that is verbal, sign language, or with an augmentative and alternative communication device or a picture exchange communication system, to help them express their thoughts and make a statement of their own in our community.

Today’s ABA, to highlight, has a distinctive approach that is compassion driven. As Dr. Greg Hanley explains, “Compassion starts with listening to our clients and the people in their lives, to best meet their needs.” This client-centered approach is non-negotiable as their state of being happy, relaxed, and engaged is the forefront of providing ABA therapy and meaningfully impact their lives.

Like ASD, individuals with IDD are faced with behavior challenges which impact their ability to express themselves, carry out daily routines, participate in their community, and understand the social world.

It is crucial to acknowledge that ABA intervention and its principle is universal and can benefit all learners. With the approval of the HB 2023, this way of teaching to a wider range of population will open many doors. The path to potential is endless when individuals are provided with meaningful support.

I understand the necessary, and costly, steps that must be taken for Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians to serve the IDD populations; the same level of training and competency regarding ASD must be established regarding IDD. Behavior Analysts are held to the ethical expectation to practice within their scope of competence. Although this step requires extensive resources, this is a necessary step to increase the overall quality of life, independence, and better ensure individuals be successful in their future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hana Kim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hana Kim, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

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