

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

Date

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,

My name is Emily Gaffery, and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst here in Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2023, which aims to establish health insurance coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ensuring the same coverage as for autism spectrum disorder diagnoses.

I have worked with many children over my years in the field that have had coverage denied for ABA services that could have benefited greatly due to not having Autism diagnosis. I specifically have done assessments of 3 different children in the Central Oregon area alone that had many other diagnoses that resulted in similar behavior difficulties as those with autism (i.e. self injurious behavior, aggression, and elopement) however, because they did not have ASD diagnosis they were denied care.

Personally I have a 16 year old nephew whom was diagnosed with Autism at age 3 and have seen him grow from having had early intervention ABA. I have also seen many children over the years increase their quality of life and independence through ABA that then positively impacts their families, friends and other providers.

In conclusion HB 2023 is an essential step in ensuring equitable access to ABA therapy for all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 2023 to help families like mine receive the support and services they need.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Gaffery 541-788-1871 emily.gaffery@gmail.com