



February 13, 2024

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

RE: HB 2023

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

Autism Spectrum Therapies (AST), previously known as Play Connections, has provided ABA services in the greater Portland area since 2008. We serve 124 families and have locations in Beaverton and Clackamas. We employ 63 Oregonians. Although our practice has focused on providing ABA services to children with a diagnosis of autism, we are eager to share our expertise with all children who would benefit from our services. Research shows that ABA can help children with developmental delays and neurological disorders learn critical life skills such as communication, selfcare skills, and community safety skills. ABA is also effective with reducing dangerous behaviors, which often accompany significant skill delays. Providing access to ABA services to these children will allow them greater independence and community integration later in life. Their lives and their families' lives will be forever changed. Every child with an intellectual or developmental disability deserves the chance to learn essential life skills and actively participate in home, school, and community activities.

HB 2023 is a necessary step toward equitable access to evidence-based ABA services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 2023.

Thank you for your service to the state of Oregon and for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions regarding how individuals can access ABA services in Oregon.

Respectfully,

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