

301

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY:  
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Dear Committee members,

I write in full support of SB 301.

My 4-year-old nephew Evan has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He is an adorable child with a kind heart, though the obstacles he faces on a daily basis are significant. His senses are easily overwhelmed. His speech and motor planning are delayed. He has trouble relating to others, understanding directions, and adjusting to changes in his environment.

However, the progress he's made since full immersion in ABA therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy has been wonderful. He may not act exactly like a neurotypical child, but as his uncle, I see him do things now that a year ago seemed very far off. He follows instructions after fewer repetitions. He adjusts to new environments more quickly. He warms up to people. It has been heartening to watch.

Unfortunately, this "full immersion" is costing my brother Dan and his wife Carey (Evan's mom and dad) an arm and a leg in out-of-pocket ABA costs. My full-time income could barely support the thousands of dollars they spend.

As you know, Dan, Carey and Evan are just an example. Every day I meet parents and kids affected by autism.

They need the support of taxpayer money. Desperately. In many cases, it is the only way to bring normalcy to their lives.

As a taxpayer, I urge you to pass SB 301.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,

Robert C. Tedesco  
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