

FTR

To: The Insurance & Real Estate Committee

From: John D. Molteni, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Date: February 23, 2011

Re: **Testimony in opposition to RB 974**

I am writing in opposition to RB 974 for the following reasons. First, the term Developmental/Relation-based therapy is vague and references several interventions that, while popular, do not have a sufficient basis in literature to be deemed evidence-based practice. This is the standard used in other sections of the bill and should be used to evaluate practices that would be covered by insurance.

The second, and more critical point, is that there are no certification standards for practitioners of Developmental/Relation-based therapy. Again, as this is the standard for other sections of the bill, it is consistent to expect that certified or licensed individuals implement those interventions. The only semblance of a certification process is in Relationship Development Intervention, and this requires only an undergraduate degree in no specific area. There are no university level coursework requirements at any level and the certification process is not overseen by any accrediting body.

Should there be any consideration of expanding insurance coverage to these interventions, sufficient protections for consumers must be in place to ensure quality services are delivered. Licensed and certified individuals should be included in any bill presented that includes treatments for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and treatments should have a solid evidence base. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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