

To whom it may concern -

I am writing in OPPOSITION to SB 1105 as this bill would be detrimental to children with autism. The professionals identified in this legislation are simply not qualified to provide these services. Behavior analysis is a concentrated field of study and those whom possess the Board Certification go through intense academic and in vivo training to qualify for the certification, in addition to passing a board examination. If other professionals could adequately provide these services and have the time to do so, there would not be a need for this specialization and children with autism would not struggle.

Prior to becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, I was a Certified Special Educator and was the case manager and special education teacher in a district wide autism program. I struggled every day to carry all the hats I had to wear to make my students successful. The Speech and Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist who consulted to my classroom were extremely helpful in giving programming information and assistance in their field of specialty, however, I did not find their behavioral support strategies successful at all. As I went through my Master's program, I discovered my own research-based strategies which I implemented to ultimately make my students successful in behavior and academic programming. Please consider my experience as you bring this legislation to vote.

Thank you for your time,

Melissa Hunsinger, M.S.Ed, BCBA