

Dear Mr. Calabrese,

As a parent of a child with autism, I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB1105. Psychologists, speech therapists and special education teachers are not qualified to provide ABA services. Such services should be provided by a licensed and certified BCBA. Without proper delivery of ABA therapy students with autism not only will not learn but can regress causing the cost of later treatment and lifelong care to increase. As a parent of a child with autism, I know firsthand how important having a certified BCBA is. My son transitioned to Kindergarten in a district that did not have a BCBA on staff. Our private BCBA was retained by our school district after two months of my son engaging in behaviors we had never seen before. It was her programming, training of school staff, and support that got him back on track. My son's team included a speech therapist, occupational therapist, special education teacher, and paraprofessional. Yet, these professionals were unable to create a plan that worked for my son. Without the support of a behavioral therapist my son would have been removed from the regular classroom to a developmental education classroom, something that I knew he did not require. Without our BCBA's direct involvement with my son's programming he would not be where he is today. Please do not allow other providers who are not specifically trained or qualified to provide ABA therapy to students with autism.

Thank you.

Kelly Neyra, parent of a child with autism