

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee,

This testimony is in support of HB 5558 Section 1&2. All persons with autism should have access to treatments that will improve and nourish their quality of life. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is one such treatment that has had success with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) individuals which is evidence based. Further to the 1987 published research by Ivar Lovaas on ABA, that has shown evidence based treatment of individuals with ASD, ABA is now a nationally recognized treatment for individuals with ASD and been validated by hundreds of peer reviewed journals. The best way to deliver ABA services to families affected by ASD, are Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA). Those who hold BCBA credentials develop tailored treatments to the clients with regular reviews of the data and work with the families to support their treatment. I also support the notion of expansion of hospital and home systems to include Autism Specific Facilities, to further provide ABA within their program. By including individuals credentialed with BCBA, these facilities will gain the imperative expertise to help implement ABA treatment programs correctly with a better outcome in both skill acquisition and other behaviour reductions to the individuals with ASD.

Yours faithfully,

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