

March 17, 2023

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Kansas State Capitol Room 142-S  
300 SW 10th St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Wasmer, and I am the Chief Operating Officer for the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). CASP is a non-profit trade association of autism service provider organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to providing evidence-based services, such as applied behavior analysis (ABA), to individuals with autism.

I am a resident of Olathe, Kansas and the father of a young adult with autism who was the beneficiary of ABA services provided by board certified behavior analysts when she was diagnosed 20 years ago. I have been active in the autism community, both personally and professionally, since then.

While there is a behavior analysis advisory committee (whose members include licensed behavior analysts and consumer representatives) that makes recommendations to the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB), behavior analysts do not have a position on the Board itself. As introduced in the House, HB 2340 included a provision to add a licensed behavior analyst (LBA) to the BSRB. Unfortunately, this provision was removed in the House Committee on Health and Human Services. However, in my review of the testimony submitted and the committee report, I can find no discussion of this provision or a rationale for its removal. Per the Fiscal Note on the bill submitted February 10, 2023, the State's cost of adding a member to the Board is estimated to be only \$4,000.

This is an issue of public safety for a very vulnerable population of Kansas citizens (i.e., those with autism). Without a licensed behavior analyst on the BSRB, Kansas risks having decisions made regarding the practice of ABA by board members with no expertise in the field.

Personally and on behalf of CASP and the Kansas citizens served by our member organizations, please consider amending HB 2340 to restore the original language related to LBA representation on the BSRB. (Please refer to HB 2340 as introduced, page 60, line 17.)

Thank you for considering my comments,

Michael Wasmer



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