

To: Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyers and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

From: Brett Bulmer - Director of Programs, Independence Association, Brunswick, ME

Subject: LD473 Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services Authorized by the MaineCare Program

Date: March 29, 2023

My name is Brett Bulmer. I am the Director of Programs at Independence Association in Brunswick. For the last 25 years, I have supported individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am submitting written testimony regarding LD473 *“Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services Authorized by the MaineCare Program.”*

I am urging you to support LD473.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a proven evidence-based approach to addressing dangerous or maladaptive behaviors in individuals with complex behavioral challenges.

Frankly, the current limit on ABA services for adults does not pass the “straight face test”, as it does not allow for a truly effective and therapeutic level of service. For many individuals, the need for ABA does not diminish with the transition from childhood to adulthood. In fact, the need can often increase when faced with the changes surrounding the transition to adult services. If needed, these individuals should be able to receive up to the 120 hours of ABA outlined in this bill. I would also point out that appropriate and effective interventions have the potential of reducing the long-term costs associated with supporting individuals with complex behavioral needs.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Brett Bulmer

Gardiner, Maine

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LD 473

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