

Terri Cross
Independence Association
LD 473

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

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities or autism with complex behavioral needs face significant barriers when it comes to ABA services. Currently, MaineCare limits the type and hours of ABA services (Section 21 - 16.5 hrs) or does not cover ABA (Section 29 - 0 hrs), preventing individuals from receiving effective treatment, which causes poor quality of life, limited community access, and over-utilization of emergency departments, crisis resources and provider capacity.

However, Section 28 provides the full range of services needed for effective treatment to children. When they enter the adult system, those who rely on ABA essentially fall off a treatment cliff. Adults need parity in their services.

Section 28 allowable ABA services (139 total hours) - Section 21 current allowable (16.5 total) Section 29 (0 total)

Section 28 allowed to Conduct Functional Behavioral Assessment - Section 21 and 29 not allowed.

Section 28 allowed to Conduct evidence based practices - Section 21 and 29 not allowed.

Section 28 allowed to Coordinate care with other providers - Section 21 and 29 not allowed.

Section 28 allowed to Conduct treatment team meetings - Section 21 and 29 not allowed.

We are asking that Adult Services continue to receive the same ABA services and hours that they received in children services. ABA is a distinct and essential practice for positive long term outcomes throughout a persons whole life.

Thank you for your consideration. Terri Cross, Independence Association