

To: Health and Human Services Committee

From: Ben Springer M.Ed., C.A.G.S., BCBA, Senior Behavior Analyst, RISE Inc

Re: Written Testimony LD-473- Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services offered by the Maine Care Program

Date: 03/29/2023

Dear Committee,

I am writing to testify in support of LD-473 (Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services offered by the Maine Care Program). I have been a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst in the State of Maine since 2015. I have worked with many individuals who have transitioned to adulthood and have been left with very limited options for services as adults. ABA is an evidenced based science and provides benefits to adults as well as children. In my experience the programming needs and behavioral, social and communication needs do not disappear as an individual enters adulthood. Many families I have worked with have been left with significantly reduced service hours and families are impacted in so far as having to make difficult decisions such as deciding if the caretaker is able to continue to work and provide for the family needs.

With Specialized Section 28 services, we include Parent Training as part of a package of behavioral support and interventions to address interfering behaviors individuals exhibit across conditions such as home and community environments. In my experience the parent training is an important part of treatment however I don't feel it prepares parents for a lifetime of caretaking after the individual no longer qualifies for Specialized Section 28 services or ABA services. Ideally there would be availability of ABA services after the transition to adulthood that would be meaningful and beneficial. As a practitioner I do not see how a meaningful program for an adult with developmental disabilities or behavioral disorders could be implemented meaningfully with the current available service hours of 16.5 hours.

I want to thank the committee for its time and consideration in this matter and would invite any questions that I can answer for you based on my experience in the field of ABA.

Sincerely,

Ben Springer, M.Ed., C.A.G.S., BCBA