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LD 473

I am entering testimony in support of the passage of LD473. In 1999 the United States Surgeon General concluded "Thirty years of research demonstrated the efficacy of applied behavioral methods in reducing inappropriate behavior and increasing communication, learning and appropriate social behavior.* This statement was made in 1999. Twenty-four years have passed since this statement/report was released to the American Public. The above statement has been augmented with years of scientific research since 1999 proving it is an effective agent of behavioral change.

From a personal perspective I have worked with adults, adolescents and children through out New England over the past 30 years. ABA is a key component to behavioral change in all aspects of my work. It is important that ABA interventions need to be supervised by qualified behavior analysts. It is not treatment that can be properly put into place without clinical oversight. ABA from skilled certified professionals changes inappropriate behaviors in adults and children. This improves the individuals ability to freely function in society. It is widely available and funded in the rest of New England as a treatment of choice with the with autistic individuals and other hard to treat behaviors. The State of Maine is falling behind in one of the most useful evidenced based treatment being used today. WHY?

*United States Surgeon General (1998) Mental Health: report of the Surgeon General Washington, DC: Author