

Steven Sepe

From: James Simon <jsimon@perspectivescorporation.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:57 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: gduffy@cpnri.org
Subject: ABA BILL H5253

To: Steven Sepe Committee Clerk, Chairwoman Donovan and Committee Members

Re: **ABA Bill H5253**

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and respective Committee Members,

Thank you Chairwoman Donovan and Committee members for considering bill H5253. My name is Jim Simon, LICSW, and I am the Senior Director and Chief Quality Officer at Perspectives Corporation. I have been with this agency and providing support to children, adolescents, and adults diagnosed with autism for almost 25 years. Perspectives Corporation currently provides services to over 50 families, across Rhode Island, who have been impacted by autism spectrum disorder. I am writing to emphasize the importance of choice for parents and the significant benefits of commercial insurance coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for children, particularly those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental challenges.

ABA therapy is a proven, evidence-based approach that helps children develop essential skills, improve communication, and reduce challenging behaviors. However, the costs associated with these services can be substantial, often placing a financial burden on families. By providing coverage for ABA services, commercial insurance can alleviate this burden and ensure that children receive the necessary support to thrive. It is also important to have families, regardless of health insurance coverage, to have options for accessing these critically important services.

Insurance coverage not only makes ABA services more accessible but also encourages providers to deliver high-quality care. It fosters a broader network of qualified professionals who can offer a range of therapeutic interventions tailored to each child's unique needs. Moreover, having insurance coverage can significantly improve treatment outcomes, as families are more likely to pursue consistent and ongoing therapy when it is financially feasible.

Lastly, commercial insurance that covers ABA services is not just a financial necessity; it is a vital investment in the future of our children. By supporting this coverage, we can help create a society where all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

James C. Simon, LICSW, CAGS

Chief Quality Officer

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