



April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Dear Committee Members,

I have been a Behavior Analyst for over 30 years. I have provided behavior analysis services to individuals with autism in several states, including Colorado. It has been my pleasure to see the tremendous impact that ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) has on the individuals with autism. I have seen the transformation of children who could not speak, were socially isolated, and were in restricted settings due to their behavioral issues. I have seen such children evolve and make incredible gains. But this did not come easy. It took work, time, AND money. It took participation in intensive treatment by professionals, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, as well, of course, parents and the children themselves.

And it was money well spent. Children who receive early intervention are significantly more likely to need less services over time. Many children who receive early intervention no longer need services as they mature into adolescence. I have seen this first hand. The children in our Early Childhood clinic have transitioned to typical classrooms without the need for the intensive 1:1 treatment they have received at our clinic. This was due to the effectiveness of such treatment.

This bill will allow children to receive the needed treatment they deserve and will continue funding for that treatment long enough to keep and maintain that progress they will not be a burden on the state in later years. At Firefly Autism, we have seen transformational effect that effective and appropriate treatment has on the lives of these affected by autism. This includes parents, caregivers, and family members, as well as county in general. By voting yes for this bill, you will most assuredly affect numerous families who desperately need services.

We at Firefly Autism strongly support passage of this bill.

Ken Winn, BCBA
 Chief Clinical Officer
 Firefly Autism
 2695 S Jersey St, Denver, CO 80222
 Ph 720-399-9234
 Cell: 813-215-7236
 www.fireflyautism.org