

March 17, 2014

Ms. Kim Skipper, Chief of Staff

Office of Rep. Dan Saddler

State Capitol, Room 104

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 361 – Licensing of Behavior Analysts

Ms. Skipper,

I am writing in response today regarding my strong support for the proposed HB361 bill to license Board Certified Behavior Analysts. As a mother of two children with autism I have seen the benefits of ABA services with both of my children.

I would like to share my experience over the last year with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska (BCBS) with respects to covering ABA services for my son. It has definitely been a very difficult road. Both the BCBA provider and I tried to work with BCBS to determine what billing codes to use, but they were unable or unwilling to provide this information. Even though BCBS currently pays for this type of service in other states with mandates. During the course of the year I received numerous notices of denied coverage due to the provider not being a licensed provider in the State of Alaska. Other months BCBS would pay the claims, but claims were processed differently. After continually phone calls to the service department to correct the numerous errors I finally became so frustrated I sent a rather abrupt, but to the point email explaining my continued frustration and BCBS in ability to do their jobs correctly. This email spurred BCBS to review every claim for 2013 and all claims where then reprocessed correctly. This processes took months and finally by the end of January 2014 everything was corrected. Had I not had 10 years of insurance experience and the determination to stay on top of this my son might not have gotten this very necessary services.

By passing this bill it will allow many more families to access this very beneficial and necessary services to help their child with autism. It will also allow BCBA's and BCaBA's ease in billing and to receive an appropriate rate of payment based on their qualifications and experience.

I along with the parents listed below are in strong support the passage of bill HB361.

Sincerely,

Lisa Klessens

17205 Alice Loop

Eagle River, AK 99577

Kirstina Santacrose

18412 Stillwater Dr.

Eagle River, AK 99477

Kelly & Glenn Ott

21309 Lowland Ave.

Eagle River, AK 99577

Laura & Billy Barnhill

9632 Nizki Circle

Eagle River, AK 99577

Donna Yarbrow

32964 N. Glenn Hwy

Sutton, AK 99674

Beth & Will Hastings

18811 Mills Bay Drive

Eagle River, AK 99577

Chris Saddler

P.O. Box 771416

Eagle River, AK 99577