



August 12, 2019

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor
State of Indiana
200 W. Washington Street
Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb,

The Hoosier Association of Behavior Analysis (HABA) and Indiana Providers of Effective Autism Treatment (InPEAT) are organizations representing practitioners and agencies that provide a unique set of services called applied behavior analysis (ABA) to thousands of vulnerable Indiana citizens. We members of those organizations are taxpayers and voters, and we need your help.

For the past four legislative sessions, HABA and InPEAT, together with The Arc of Indiana, have been advocating for the creation of an Indiana license for professional practitioners of ABA. The reason for this initiative is simple: Consumers of ABA services, their families, payers, and practitioners all need to be assured that those who claim to provide ABA services in our state actually are qualified to do so and are held to the profession's ethical and other standards. We contend it is also in the state's best interest to establish a license for professional practitioners of ABA. Currently ABA services are the only services reimbursable by Indiana Medicaid for which providers are not required to be licensed by the state. Thirty other states have adopted laws requiring a license to practice ABA professionally, including most of the Midwestern states. It is clear that others will follow suit, as they have done with other healthcare professions. To protect the state and consumers of ABA services, it is essential for Indiana to join them sooner rather than later.

To date our state government has been reluctant to embrace the creation of a licensure requirement for ABA practitioners. The main reason appears to be that the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA) simply opposes the creation of any new license. We say "appears" because that agency's opposition to our licensure effort has been communicated to us in ways that have been indirect, vague, and entirely unsatisfactory. The IPLA has been unwilling to meet with us to discuss the initiative, and in fact denied our request for a meeting in February. Our lobbyist, Mr. Michael Leppert of Krieg DeVault LLP, met with Mr. Luke Bosso from your staff on

February 6 to discuss the IPLA's actions. Mr. Leppert left that meeting with the impression that Mr. Bosso agrees that the IPLA's refusal to talk with us is unreasonable. However, in the weeks following that meeting the IPLA actively conveyed its opposition to our licensure proposal to several members of the Senate and House, while continuing to refuse to communicate with us or Mr. Leppert . We believe our organizations and the clients we serve deserve better treatment from our state government.

We have solid commitments from key legislators for a behavior analyst licensure bill to be filed and heard by the committees of jurisdiction during the 2020 legislative session. We can show that the cost of administering the licensure program will be more than covered by application and other fees, which the license-eligible members of the profession are prepared to pay. In fact there is very strong support for creation of a license from the profession as well as consumers of ABA services, funders of those services, and legislators. There is no known opposition except from the IPLA.

As you can no doubt appreciate, it has been extremely frustrating to be told that we cannot meet with the state government source of opposition to our licensure initiative while that same taxpayer-funded entity has been actively lobbying against it. We believe that we deserve and have reason to expect a more collaborative relationship with our state government. So our request to you is simple: Please meet with us to help us determine how we can work with your administration to accomplish our goal.

We look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you and your team in the very near future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danyl Eppernheimer, President
Hoosier Association for Behavior Analysis

Jill D. Forte, Ph.D., BCBA
Indiana Providers of Effective Autism Treatment

CC: Luke Bosso, Senior Operations Director, Office of Governor Holcomb
Senator Ed Charbonneau, Chairman, Committee on Health and Provider Services
Rep. Cynthia Kirchofer, Chairperson, Committee on Public Health
Debbie Frye, Executive Director, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency
Kim Dodson, Executive Director, The Arc of Indiana