

14-546-37

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Champa, Heidi

From: Jess Smith <jess306@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 12:58 PM
To: PW, IBHS
Subject: IBHS Regulation No. 14-546

Dear Representative,

I am a parent and professional living in your district. As you are aware, people in our Commonwealth face many challenges:

- Opioid and other substance abuse addictions,
- Rising medical costs associated with obesity and other treatable conditions
- Problems linked to an aging population
- Care for our returning veterans suffering from PTSD, and
- Tens of thousands of toddlers and school-aged children facing special developmental needs such as autism, Down's syndrome, and ADHD.

We need the right professionals to aid our citizens living with, or recovering from, such issues. Further, you may agree that our systems require more accountability to ensure our limited dollars are spent solving critical issues efficiently. While there is no "magic bullet" to solve so many problems, there is a non-controversial, non-partisan, and evidenced based option available.

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a data-driven, research-based approach with decades of science confirming its validity, and is proven effective in all of these critical areas (and more).

Yet sadly, our Commonwealth is behind 29 other States, and sets no standards for the licensing of those professionals who would treat Pennsylvanians facing these serious and challenging behavioral, developmental, physical, mental or general health issues.

The BETTER ACCESS TO TREATMENT "BAT" ACT sponsored by Representatives Mehaffie and Murt, will recognize ABA as a unique discipline, and offers a uniform path to licensure by aligning PA with national practice standards for those who would bring ABA to citizens of our Commonwealth.

I respectfully request that you review the legislation and urge you to sign on as a cosponsor. Passage of this legislation would be a "win-win" for the healthcare industry, the insurers who provide the benefits, and of course the citizens themselves, who all stand to gain from the delivery of enhanced and clinically proven interventions.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Musho

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