



CLO

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I'm speaking on behalf of myself as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctorate working in the State of Kansas, as a representative of Community Living Opportunities serving individuals with severe developmental disabilities throughout the state of Kansas and as a voice for the hundreds of families with children we have in treatment services.

As the Director of CLO Children's Network I have had the chance to directly observe the effects of Applied Behavior Analysis can make on the life of a child and the families who care for them. The children we serve have made academic gains, decreased problematic behaviors that were interfering with daily functioning, and have hit if not exceeded typical milestones in their overall development. Not to mention the families who have been strengthened through their child's treatment by seeing the hope of future and gaining the knowledge to be able to care for their child in their home without intensive supports or seeking out of home placements.

Within this past year, our agency has seen more Missouri families cross the border to receive services than we have seen Kansas's families being served. However, with this bill it will open the funding possibilities for thousands more Kansas families and children to gain the medically necessary treatment. No longer will some families have to question their residencies in our state & take tax dollars out of our state, no longer will some families have to weigh priorities due to treatment costs and no longer will our Kansas children with autism have to go without treatment that will give them the greatest success rate to become independent and productive adults. We have seen it work in our neighboring state and we can be equally as successful with this bill in place!

At CLO we have approximately 550 consumers with developmental disabilities and we proudly serve them across their lifespan. To put the cost benefit of ABA treatment into perspective, the average yearly cost to care for an individual with a developmental disability is \$49,885 for residential and day services in the state of Kansas. For 10 years of services the State of Kansas will spend \$498,859.00 and for an average lifespan of 20-65 years of age of an individual with a developmental disability the cost is estimated at \$2.24 million. This cost can be significantly decreased when a child is provided with treatment at an early age and the autism treatment cost analysis of recent studies suggests a state savings of \$3.2 million per individual when direct & indirect supports can be considerably decreased or even eliminated at younger ages as a result of ABA treatment.

This bill will be opening up doors of funding sources for behaviorists like myself to be able to serve more of our children in need, it will cut state costs across the lifespan of individuals with developmental disabilities, and most importantly it is an opportunity to make meaningful differences in thousands of lives of children and their families.

Thank you for your time and your dedication!
Stephanie Thorne, Ph.D., BCBA-D