

To Chairman Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Hall, and Members of the House Insurance Committee:

My name is [your name], and I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 453** and to urge the Committee to advance this critical legislation. HB 453 addresses urgent gaps in Ohio's insurance and Medicaid framework for autism services—gaps that continue to delay or prevent thousands of children from receiving the evidence-based treatment they desperately need.

Autism affects at least **1 in 36 children**, and early intervention is proven to improve communication, adaptive skills, and long-term outcomes significantly. Yet across Ohio, families face **months-long waitlists or have no providers in their communities**, inconsistent insurance determinations, and frequent denials for medically necessary applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy. Providers report that reimbursement uncertainty, rate disparities, and workforce shortages are making it increasingly difficult to meet the demand for care. HB 453 directly targets these barriers.

House Bill 453 does four essential things:

1. **Strengthens and clarifies insurance coverage for autism services.**

HB 453 reaffirms that ABA therapy and related autism services must be treated as medically necessary when guided by nationally recognized practice guidelines. It also prevents insurers from imposing more restrictive cost-sharing on autism treatment than on other medical or surgical benefits. These protections ensure families can rely on consistent, appropriate coverage.

2. **Establishes fair and predictable reimbursement for ABA providers.**

By requiring commercial insurers to reimburse no less than the current Medicaid fee schedule for adaptive behavior assessment and treatment, HB 453 stabilizes provider participation, brings more providers into the network, and reduces the financial burden placed on families who cannot afford out-of-pocket care.

3. **Builds a sustainable workforce through an 'exam-eligible technician' pathway.**

Ohio's ABA workforce is strained, and families feel the consequences. HB 453 allows trained direct-care staff who have completed the requirements to sit for the national Registered Behavior Technician exam to provide services—under supervision—for up to 90 days until they achieve certification. This helps clinics onboard new staff faster while preserving strong oversight and safety standards.

4. **Improves transparency for Medicaid reimbursement.**

The bill directs the Ohio Department of Medicaid to publish its drafted independent auditor developed reimbursement schedule for ABA services. Transparent rate information allows providers to plan responsibly and helps ensure that Medicaid-enrolled children receive the same access to care as those with private insurance.

Why This Matters

Behind every waitlist statistic is a child losing valuable developmental time—months when intervention can be life-changing. Parents describe calling dozens of providers only to find that few accept their insurance. Or that the providers simply do not have openings. Many families cannot shoulder the financial cost of paying out-of-network or private therapy fees. For Medicaid families, access can be even more limited due to reimbursement uncertainty.

HB 453 removes unnecessary barriers, creates a clearer and more stable insurance environment, and strengthens the autism therapy workforce—all without compromising quality or safety. (love this statement)

A Request of the Committee

I respectfully urge the House Insurance Committee to support and advance HB 453. This bill represents a bipartisan, evidence-based solution that will improve outcomes for children, strengthen families, and support providers across Ohio. It is not just legislation—it's a lifeline for families who have been waiting far too long for help.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to improving access to essential care for Ohio's children. I would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[City, Ohio]

[Email]

[Phone]

ADDENDUM – *NOT TO BE SENT WITH LETTER*

Here are the names and email addresses of each Committee member if you would like to contact them directly:

COMMITTEE MEMBER	DISTRICT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Chairman Brian Lampton	District 70 R	Rep70@ohiohouse.gov
Vice Chair Meredith Craig	District 77 R	Rep77@ohiohouse.gov
Ranking Member Derrick Hall	District 34 D	Rep34@ohiohouse.gov
Tim Barhorst	District 85 R	Rep85@ohiohouse.gov
Christine Cockley	District 6 D	Rep06@ohiohouse.gov
Jack K. Daniels	District 32 R	Rep32@ohiohouse.gov
Kellie Deeter	District 54 R	Rep54@ohiohouse.gov
Dontavius L. Jarrells	District 1 D	Rep01@ohiohouse.gov
Marilyn John	District 76 R	Rep76@ohiohouse.gov
Angela N. King	District 84 R	Rep84@ohiohouse.gov
Brian Lorenz	District 60 R	Rep60@ohiohouse.gov
Bob Peterson	District 91 R	Rep91@ohiohouse.gov
Bride Rose Sweeney	District 16 D	Rep16@ohiohouse.gov