



March 17, 2025

Representative Susan R. Donovan, Chair  
State of Rhode Island  
House Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering **ABA Bill H5253**. I am Crystal Ducharme, Program Director of AccessPoint RI's Children's Clinical Services. We are an agency that has been established in RI for 60 years, providing services to over 580 children and adults with intellectual, emotional and developmental disabilities. Approximately 50 of those are children in our therapeutic needs program.

I am writing to express my strong support for **ABA Bill H5253**. ABA services are critical to the children and families to whom we provide services. These children have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Through ongoing tracking and assessment, the treatment is continuously adapted to foster the child's skill development. ABA helps children to learn positive behaviors, enhance social awareness, increase language usage, and further their emotional development. Of course, the stability of the child lends to the stability of the entire family.

I want to thank the General Assembly for raising Medicaid rates for ABA. In order to provide support to all children in need of therapeutic services, it is also very important for commercial insurers to maintain competitive payments to ensure a stable system of service.

I ask for your support for **ABA Bill H5253** and thank you, again, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Crystal Ducharme  
AccessPoint RI  
Children's Clinical Services  
Program Director

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