

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
RI House of Representatives
By Email To: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: **In support of H-5624**

Dear Chair Donovan:

We write in support of H-5624, to require commercial health insurance payers to reimburse providers of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services at least as much as the Medicaid program reimburses.

In our work with families, we hear regularly about how beneficial ABA is in supporting individuals who have social, emotional, learning and behavioral challenges, especially for children with autism. This therapeutic approach is used to help individuals learn new skills and reduce challenging behaviors by applying principles of learning theory. Through ABA, individuals will increase their social abilities like completing tasks, communicating, and learning new skills, therefore supporting the individual to be a more active member of their community. ABA is proven to help children at home, in school, and in the community.

We also see regularly in our work with families that ABA is not as accessible as it should be for children and families. This is especially true for children and families who do not speak English. Increased access to this therapeutic support can improve the quality of life for many Rhode Islanders.

We also support the elimination of any age restrictions on this service. Such age restrictions may already be illegal based on federal and state mental health parity laws. This bill may also benefit from other technical revisions, and we plan to provide detailed feedback to Representative Spears directly.

We look forward to working with this committee to support ongoing efforts to improve access to therapeutic supports for individuals of all ages.

Sincerely,

/s/

Samuel Salganik, JD
Executive Director
Salganik@ripin.org

