

March 12, 2012

Representative Shultz, Chair
House Insurance Committee

Dear Chairman Schultz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leesa Mosher and I am the mother of twins with autism. At this time, I am fortunate to have a state employee health plan that enables my children to get ABA therapy. I cannot say enough about the changes that I have seen with the twins since this therapy has begun. My son and daughter are 8 years old. My daughter was unable to read and is now reading on a kindergarten level. With ABA therapy her behaviors have improved which is one of the biggest barriers to her learning. She is now starting to engage in conversation that she was unable to do before receiving this help. She is able to hold eye contact so much more than she ever could in the past. She is starting to socialize with other students and is being integrated into the regular education class more and more!

Before ABA therapy, my son was behind in reading. He is now starting to read at the beginning level of third grade. This is slightly ahead of where he should be at this time! Socialization is a weak point for him and he is starting to engage with other students. His comprehension in all areas has greatly improved.

My husband and I have been so excited to see the stride the kids are making with ABA therapy. Unfortunately, in January of 2013, I will be losing my state employee health plan. This means in order to continue therapy for my children, I will have to quit my job of seven years and go to work in Missouri. As you know, they have already passed a bill that allows anyone with insurance to receive autism benefits.

My goal for my children is that they are able to become taxpaying citizens and take care of themselves. ABA therapy is a major part of how this goal can be reached. I, as anyone as a parent, am willing to do whatever I have to do to get this therapy for my children. If this means quitting a stable job and spending more money for gas and time to travel to and from work, then that is what I will do to ensure my childrens' future.

Again, I urge you to pass HB 2764. Passage of this bill will give my children the chance they need to live a normal life like you or I take for granted.

Thank You,

Leesa Mosher