

Senators Warren, Hopgood, Hood, Marleau, Bieda and O'Brien offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 164.**

A resolution to support the practice of applied behavior analysis treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Whereas, At least a dozen health professions and government agencies endorse applied behavior therapy (ABA) as a scientifically proven approach for treating children with autism and related disorders; and

Whereas, Behavior analysis is the scientific study of principles of learning and behavior first developed by B.F. Skinner and colleagues in the 1930s. The field of behavior analysis contains over 80 years of experimental research and over 60 years of applied research demonstrating the relationships between the environment and behavior, as well as interventions that effectively and efficiently create socially significant improvements in individuals' lives; and

Whereas, The field of behavior analysis has research evidence showing effective and efficient behavior changes in the areas of mental health, education, health and wellness, weight loss programming, medical treatment adherence, gerontology, business management, business leadership, training, and supervision. It has the potential to dramatically affect any area of human behavior; and

Whereas, The practice of ABA in Michigan is conducted by board certified behavior analysts and behavior analytic professionals at various academic degree levels including doctoral, graduate, and baccalaureate levels; and

Whereas, Behavior analysts oversee ABA treatment services for individuals and provide an array of services including assessment of skills and skill deficits, assessment of unsafe or unhealthy behavior, development of behavior plans of care, training of staff in implementation of behavior plans of care, collection of behavior data to monitor the effectiveness of programming, ongoing supervision of staff providing adaptive behavior change protocols, and collaboration with other providers and the individual, and caregivers to ensure treatment success; and

Whereas, Applied behavior analysis (ABA) has gained wide recognition as a safe and effective treatment for autism spectrum disorders. Over the years, the use of ABA therapy has increased dramatically, enabling many individuals with autism to live productive lives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we support the practice of applied behavior analysis for the treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan congressional delegation, the Governor, and the members of the Michigan Board of Behavior Analysts.