



National Coalition for Access to Autism Services

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: COVID-19 Federal Assistance for Autism Services

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The National Coalition for Access to Autism Services (NCAAS) is a nonprofit organization representing autism treatment providers and the hundreds of thousands of children and families they serve in every state of America who are affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). NCAAS providers have more than 168,000 employees nationwide and contract with TRICARE, public schools, Medicaid, CHIP, state and local payors, and commercial insurers to provide essential medically necessary treatment to patients of all ages, although the vast majority of patients are children. It is estimated that there are more than 275,000 patients who receive regular, near-daily Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, the primary treatment for ASD. ABA is the process of systematically applying interventions based upon the principles of learning theory to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree and to demonstrate that the interventions employed are responsible for the improvement in behavior.

ABA providers are among those on the front line helping families and their children with ASD. Their services are acutely needed now, and many continue to attempt to provide services during this public health crisis. However, due to the 1:1 nature of treatment and the young ages of most patients, social distancing and proper hygiene can be difficult to maintain. Additionally, many patients with ASD have other underlying health conditions that place them at greater risk if they were to be exposed to the coronavirus. As a result, 1:1 treatment has been significantly curtailed and will be further reduced as the emergency situation continues. Without federal assistance in the wake of COVID-19, the provider framework that ensures access to autism treatment will collapse, children will be left without treatment, and parents will lose critical guidance and support, not just during this health emergency but, especially for some extended period after this health emergency subsides, as there will be little of this industry left to provide these essential mental health services.

Our industry is facing significant challenges to preserve access to treatment using telehealth and will face greater challenges to rebuild when the emergency terminates.

Behavior Technicians (BTs) and Behavior Analysts (BAs) who work directly with patients, often daily during their ABA therapy, are already experiencing reduced hours and furloughs due to the CDC's Social Distancing Guidance. Eighty percent of the autism industry workers earn \$20 or less per hour. Many will leave the industry entirely as appointments are cancelled for coronavirus-related concerns, which will require organizations to hire, train, and certify new BTs (a process that can take up to 90 days) before they can provide therapy to patients. The developing network adequacy challenges are currently having a direct impact on patient access to medically necessary care that will continue when this emergency is over. Some industry estimates anticipate a 40 percent loss or greater in ABA services capacity in the coming weeks. While ABA providers will immediately begin to work to increase capacity once the emergency is lifted, they will be limited by the financial burdens of hiring, training, and certification of new BTs and BAs for as much as three months, with no revenue earned from these new therapists during these processes. For these reasons, we are seeking federal financial support to help companies ramp up hiring and training to increase access to ABA for patients with ASD.

We recognize that it was not possible to address all of the needs we had previously requested in the CARES Act just enacted into law. ABA companies are now focused on how best to recover from a growing loss of ABA services capacity. Without federal assistance, the industry will be decimated and slow to recover, producing serious access problems for ASD patients and their families in the months ahead. No matter how briefly the current social distancing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) remains in place, it will be years before ABA services will be able to meet the current demand for these services – a demand that is already oversubscribed today – if federal assistance is not provided.

Please support this request. With your support, ABA companies have the potential to create thousands of jobs as they rebuild access to critical treatment. Please contact Denis Dwyer at djdwyer@wms-jen.com for additional information about this issue.

Sincerely,

360 Behavioral Health
7 Dimensions Behavioral Health
A Balanced Child
A Hand Up Behavior Services
A&C Behavioral Solutions
A.P.P.L.E. Consulting
ABA & Verbal Behavior Group
ABA Consultation & Services
ABA Insight
ABA Interactive
ABA Kentucky

ABA Pathways
ABA Positive Support Services
ABA Solutions
ABA Therapeutics
ABA Therapy Solutions
ABC Pediatrics
ABC's of Applied Behavior Analysis
ABEDI, Inc
ABLE Home Health Care
Above and Beyond Learning Group
ABay!
Academy ABA
Acceleration Behavioral Therapies
Achievable Behavior Strategies
Acorn Health
ACT
Adaptive, LLC
Advance Kids
Advanced Behavioral Consulting
Aim High Impact
Aim Star Learning
All Kids First
All Pieces Fit
Alternative Behavior Strategies Inc.
Alternatives ABA
Amazingly Uplifted
Anchor Academy
Applied Behavior Center for Autism
Applied Behavioral Analysis Services
Aprendamos Intervention Team
Arion Care Solutions
Arizona Autism United
Ascend Behavior Partners
Aspen Behavior Consulting
Aspire Behavioral Health Center
Attain-Speech-Language and Behavioral Services
Attentive Behavior
Auburn University Autism Center
Augusta Levy Learning Center
Aurora Behavior Services
Autism & Behavior Services
Autism & Behavioral Spectrum
Autism Behavior Consulting Group
Autism Behavior Services
Autism Behavioral Center

Autism Bridges
Autism Centers of Michigan
Autism Consulting & Therapy
Autism Home Support Services
Autism Learning Partners
Autism Services of Kansas
Autism Spectrum Therapies
Autism Worldwide
Aveanna
Axis ABA Therapy and Support Services
BASES
BASICS NW
BAYADA Home Care Hawaii ABA Services
Beacon Pediatric Behavioral Health
Beanstalk Child Psychology
Behavior Analyst Certification Board (*represents more than 100,000 clinicians and technicians*)
Behavior and Education Inc.
Behavior Associates of Indiana
Behavior Bridges
Behavior Frontiers
Behavior Interventions, Inc.
Behavior Modification Solutions ABA
Behavior Network
Behavior Therapy Solutions
Behavior TLC
Behavioral and Therapeutic Services of Hawaii
Behavioral Connections
Behavioral Family Solutions
Behavioral Framework
Behavioral Health Center of Excellence
Behavioral Health Consulting Services
Behavioral Health Therapies
Behavioral Independence
Behavioral Intervention Association
Behavioral Learning Systems
Behavioral ONE
Behavioral Progression, Inc.
Behavioral Support Partnership
Belief Eclectic Learning
Benchmark Behavioral Solutions
Better Behavior Therapy
Beyond Boundaries
Bierman ABA Autism Center/Fort Wayne Autism Center
Black Hills Behavior, LLC

Bloom Behavior Therapy
Blossom Center for ABA Learning
Blue Lantern Learning
Blue Sprig
Bluegrass Center for Autism
Brandywine Center for Autism
Breakthrough Behavior
Brent Woodall Foundation for Exceptional Children
Bright Minds Consulting
Brighter Days ABA
BrightView Behavioral Health Center
Brightwork ABA Therapy, Inc
BTI Group
Building Bridges
Building Independence Together
Butterfly Effects, LLC
Caprock Behavioral Solutions
Cayman ABA
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Center for Social Dynamics
Central Texas Behavioral Solutions
Centria
Centria Healthcare
Chancelight Behavioral Health
ChanceLight Behavioral Health, Therapy & Education
ChildFirst Behavior Therapy
Child's Play Autism Centers
Choice Autism Center
Chrysalis Autism Center
Cincinnati Center for Autism
Clinical Behavior Analysis
Coachella Valley Lighthouse
Colorado Behavior and Learning Group
Connections Behavior Planning & Intervention
Connec-to-Talk
Constellations Behavioral Services
Cornerstones Autism Services/Cardinal
Council of Autism Service Providers
Creating Brighter Futures
Creative Behavior Intervention
Cultivate Behavioral Health & Education
Damar Services
Delta Behavioral Group
Developing Minds Therapy Services
Direct Behavioral Strategies

Early Autism Services
Early Bird's ABA
East Bay ABA
Easterseals Hawaii
Eastside Social Skills Therapy
Easy Steps Limited
EBS Healthcare
Elevation Autism and Learning Center
Empower Behavioral Health
Encompass Therapy Center
Encore Support Services
ERA Behavioral Solutions
Explorer Development Center
Family Behavioral Health
Family Centred Practices Group
FamilyWise Behavior Solutions
FH&L Autism Services
First Leap Pediatric Therapy
FirstSteps for Kids, Inc
Foothill Child Development Center
Footprints Behavioral Interventions, Inc
Forbes Behavioral Services
Fraser
FreshStart(s)
Gateway Learning Group, LLC
Gateway Pediatric Therapy
GoalPoint Behavior Group, LLC
GOALS for Autism
Good Behavior Beginnings
Gorbald Behavioral Consulting
Great Heights Applied Behavior Analysis
Halo Behavioral Health
Handprints Behavioral Therapy
Harwood Center
Helping Hand Autism Services
Helping Hands Family
Holding Hands Pediatric Therapy
HOPE Consulting, LLC
Hopebridge, LLC
Horizons Academy of Maui
In Steps
InBloom Autism
Including Kids
Indiana Behavior Analysis Academy
Innovative Autism Connections

Insight Behavior Partnership
Inspire Behavioral Learning
Instructional ABA Consultants
Integrity Behavioral Solutions
Intercare Therapy
INVO Health Care
Ivy Behavioral Group
JumpStart Autism Center
Kadiant
Kaleidoscope Behavior Analysis & Therapy
Kaufman Children's Center
Kendall Behavioral Solutions
Key Autism Services
Key Connections ABA Services
KGH Autism Services
Knapp Center for Childhood Development
KNR Therapy
Kuhn Behavioral Consulting Services
L.E.A.P.S. and Beyond, Inc.
Lauren's Institute for Education
Leap Ahead
Leaps and Bounds Therapy Services
Leaps n Boundz Inc.
Learn Behavioral
Learning & Behavior Solutions
Leep Forward
Life Strategies
Life We Deserve
Lifespan ABA
Little Leaves Behavioral Services
Little Lemons Therapy
Lovaas Institute
Love 2 Learn
Lumina Autism Center
Madison Behavior Therapy
Malama Pono Autism Center
Marin Autism Interventions
Mastermind Behavior Services
Mau Loa Learning
May Institute
McGrew Behavior Intervention Services
Meaningful Milestones
MeBe
Mercy Plus Healthcare Services
Meredith College Autism Program

Metro West Learning Center
MGM Behavioral/MGM Academy
Minnesota Autism Center
MOLI Autism Center
Monarch Behavior Solutions
New England ABA, LLC
New Heights ABA
New Horizons in Autism
Next Gen Therapy
Nexus Solutions Group
North Jersey Behavioral Health
Northwest Behavioral Associates
Novel Responses, Inc.
Ohana Mua Behavioral Therapy
One of the Kids
One Piece at a Time Development Center
Opportunity, Community, Ability
Optimized Autism Interventions
Over the Rainbow Behavioral Consulting
Pacific Northwest Behavior
Pathways Autism Center
Patterns Behavioral Services
Peak Behavioral Services
Peak Potential Behavioral Services
Piece of the Puzzle Behavior Analysis
Pivotal Achievements
Positive Behavioral Connections
Positive Pathways
Precision ABA
Priorities ABA
Prism Autism Education & Consultation
Project Brilliance
Project MIND
Proud Moments ABA
Reach Educational Services
Reach High Consulting
Reaching Milestones
Recognizing Children's Gifts Behavioral Health Network
Risen Consultants
Rocky Mountain ABA
Search Learning Group
SEEK Arizona
Shaping Change
Sheela Behavioral Consulting
Smart Start

Soaring on Hope Pediatric Therapy
Solutions Behavioral Consulting
Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals
Sonnenberg Consultants
Southwest West Central Service Cooperative
Spark Center for Autism
Spectrum Autism Center
Spectrum Behavioral Therapies
StaffRehab
STAR of CA, LLC
Stepping Stone Kids Therapy
Stepping Stones ABA
Stepping Stones Behavioral Solutions
Stepping Stones Center
Strive ABA Consultants
Strive Center for Autism
Strong Beginnings
Success on the Spectrum
T.O.T.A.L. Programs
Tanner Autism Services of Colorado
Teach Us, LLC
Teach, Acquire, Thrive
The Autism Therapy Group
The Behavior Center
The Behavior Exchange
The Behavior Train
The Child Development Center
The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh
The Healing Haven
The Ivymount School
The Kid SpOt Center
The Learning Consultants
The Lily Center
The Reason For HOPE
The Reilly Behavioral Group
The SEED Center
The Stepping Stones Group, LLC
Therapeutic Pathways
Total Education Solutions
Trading Spaces ABA
Training and Treatment Innovations
True ABA
Trumpet Behavioral Health
Ubuntu Autism Consultants
Ulezi, LLC

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Unique Pathways
Valley Behavioral Health
Verbal Beginnings
Verbal Behavior Consulting
Village Autism Center
Wee Can Autism and Behavioral Consultants
Wickler Behavioral Consulting
Within Reach Center for Autism
Working With Autism, Inc
ZÖe Center for ABA and Development Services