

*Families – Are you ready to have less access to behavioral health services?
Providers – Can you afford to pay more to hire staff to provide those services?*

AB 1715 creates those problems and more. Want to stop it? It's your call!

AB 1715, by Assemblymember Chris Holden (Pasadena), will make it harder to get all behavioral health services, including ABA. How? It will drastically limit the option to choose behavioral providers who aren't trained in ABA, even if a different treatment meets your needs better. Instead of protecting people, it's going to hurt you.

This bill defines behavioral health by the book. But treatment meant "to produce socially significant improvements" isn't just ABA one-on-one for children with autism. It's helping a person learn to use public transportation. It's reducing self-injurious behaviors at a day program. It's teaching someone skills to thrive in their family or residential home. It's meeting behavioral health needs for all people, regardless of disability.

Getting behavioral health services – ABA or not – is already hard because there aren't enough providers. Limiting the field to one type of professional hurts access even more. And a range of service providers will only be able to hire those types of individuals, with no extra funding from the state to pay those higher costs.

Behavioral health is critical for many people with developmental disabilities. Protecting them, and ensuring those services are provided by qualified staff, is something everyone agrees on. Doing that takes real conversations with all stakeholders, not one that ignores the needs of individuals, families, and providers – people like you.

This bill is being heard in a Senate committee at 1pm on Monday, June 27th. Are you represented by one of the Senators below? Call them in Sacramento and in the district, and let them know why less access, at a higher cost, is bad for you! Say "*I'm represented by the Senator, who will be voting on AB 1715 soon. I want to urge a 'no' vote on this bad bill!*" Then share how behavioral health services help you, and why limiting access is so harmful.

Are you a constituent? Double-check at <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Senator Jerry Hill - San Mateo County, Sunnyvale

916-651-4013 in Sacramento, 650-212-3313 in the district

Senator Patricia Bates - South OC, Oceanside, Carlsbad

916-651-4036 in Sacramento, 949-598-5850 in OC, 760-642-0809 in the San Diego region

Senator Marty Block - San Diego, La Jolla, Rancho Bernardo

916-651-4039 in Sacramento, 619-645-3133 in San Diego

Senator Cathleen Galgiani - Stockton, Lodi, Tracy, Modesto

916-651-4005 in Sacramento, 209-948-7930 in Stockton region, 209-576-6273 in Modesto region

Senator Ted Gaines - Northeastern CA to the state line, Rocklin/Folsom/Tahoe

916-651-4001 in Sacramento, 916-933-7213 in El Dorado Hills, 530-224-7001 in Redding

Senator Ed Hernandez - Alhambra/El Monte/West Covina region

916-651-4022 in Sacramento, 626-430-2499 in West Covina

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson - Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties

916-651-4019 in Sacramento, 805-965-0862 in Santa Barbara County, 805-988-1940 in Ventura County

Senator Tony Mendoza - Downey/Whittier/Cerritos region

916-651-4032 in Sacramento, 562-860-3202 in the district

Senator Bob Wieckowski - Fremont/East Bay/Santa Clara region

916-651-4010 in Sacramento, 510-794-3900 in the district

Questions? Need more info? Contact Daniel at ARCA – dsavino@arcenet.org