

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Favorable

HB 745 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Behavior Analysts

Dear Madame Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 745 to help improve access to effective therapy for autism. One of the most beneficial therapies for children with autism is Applied Behavior Analysis. However, many families remain on waiting lists for services due to a severe shortage of qualified and licensed therapists. Turnaround time for the licensure process in Maryland is much longer than in neighboring States. This directly impacts the time a child must wait to begin receiving life-changing services. The sooner licenses can be approved, the sooner children with autism can begin therapy and the more effective it will be.

HB 745 establishes a timeline for the issuance of a license to practice behavior analysis to a qualified applicant. This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to issue a license within 10 days of receiving the completed application; and requires the State Board to provide e-mail notification regarding the status of an application for a license to practice ABA

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton