September 14, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 562, Portantino
Health Care Coverage: Pervasive Developmental Disorders or Autism

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to you today on behalf of The Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP), including our numerous member organizations in California. CASP is a non-profit association of organizations committed to providing evidence-based care to individuals with autism. CASP represents the autism provider community to the nation at large, including the government, payers, and the general public. We provide information and education and promote standards that enhance quality of care. Our members are particularly interested in providing evidence-based applied behavior analysis for autistic individuals of all ages in California and currently serve tens of thousands of that population.

California has long been a leader in the provision of meaningful services for people of all ages and support needs who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. While we appreciate efforts to continually strengthen these critical services, the final version of SB 562 appears to include recognition of services that do not meet levels of scientific rigor generally accepted as evidence-based.

Additionally, we support certification by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to protect consumers of behavior-analytic services by systematically establishing, promoting, and disseminating professional standards of practice.

Because of the above concerns, we respectfully request that you veto SB 562. Should you require additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (508) 785-4074 or jursitti@casproviders.org.
Sincerely,

Judith Ursitti
Vice President of Government Affairs