

Lynda Tache
SB174 Testimony
3/24/25

Dear Senate Education Committee;

My name is Lynda Tache for the record, and I am here today to testify as a parent/advocate and non-profit professional in support of SB174. My son and only child Grant Tache is 23 years old and living his best life because of all the legislative support since 2007. He is officially diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Sensory Integration Dysfunction and Learning Disability NOS-not otherwise specified. Grant entered the Clark County School District special education program when he was 3 years old under the autism label. He had very severe behaviors inside and outside the classroom and constantly had to be restrained when he melted down. I had heard about ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) behavior therapy, but didn't really understand what it was and being a single working parent with no family to help, we could not be available to access this type of service in the home.

Fast forward, in 2008 Grant was 7 years old and was getting bigger and more aggressive, so we were at a crossroads. I truly did not know if I was going to be able to manage him and did not want to go down the path of institutionalizing him. We were finally able to access the state ABA services that we all fought for in 2007 which is now the Autism Treatment Assistance Program. We were trying to mainstream Grant from the autism special education program to the Regular Ed classroom, but the school would not allow our Behavior Consultant Erik Lovaas in the classroom to help Grant or even observe to give the teacher tools to help. And of course the school did not offer Behavior Therapy in the classroom either. I believe in my heart that Grant would have been mainstreamed in Elementary school if they would have allowed our behavior therapist in the classroom. This would have significantly increased our quality of life, and we would not have suffered so much.

In 2009, I founded Grant a Gift Autism Foundation and created all of the programs that still exist today. In 2015-2016, I spearheaded the creation of the Ackerman Center with the UNLV School of Medicine, and in 2019, I co-founded the Collaboration Center Foundation which is a collaborative campus for all neurodevelopmental, intellectual, physical, and learning disabilities for all ages. Therefore, I have come into contact with thousands of families over the years and too many of them have experienced these same barriers in regard to their respective schools in Southern, Northern and Rural Nevada. There have been a few families that had a supportive school, but it is a small number in comparison to those who have not been as lucky or should I say "Fortunate." Many families have needed to do services at home and miss some school and they have received official truancy letters. We need consistency for ALL families across the state that need to have ABA therapist support in the classroom.

We also need the support of all principles since they govern what happens in the classrooms. It shouldn't be a crap shoot anymore.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for listening and allowing me to be a voice so many families desperate to help their children reach their full potential and have a meaningful life in our great state of NV.

Sincerely,

Lynda Tache, Parent/Advocate and Non-profit Leader