



**KidsLink**  
Neurobehavioral Center

KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center  
899 Frost Road  
Streetsboro, OH 44241  
330-963-8600  
[www.kidslinkohio.com](http://www.kidslinkohio.com)

June 3, 2024

Ohio House Primary & Secondary Education Committee – HB 440 – Proponent Testimony

Chairman Gayle Manning, Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 440. My name is Katrina Mullen, and I am the Director of Client Engagement for KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center. KidsLink is a Jon Peterson and Autism Scholarship provider. We provide therapy services to students utilizing the Ohio scholarships.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the requirement in the Ohio Revised Code that mandates speciality certified instructors to be overseen by an Intervention Specialist. This regulation has proven to be inefficient, ineffective, impractical and financially restrictive for families and providers alike.

It is important to note that the Intervention Specialist (IS) does not necessarily possess more training or expertise in the domain of instruction compared to the speciality certified instructor. Specialists undergo extensive training and often hold advanced degrees specifically focused on their area of expertise. Imposing supervision by an IS could potentially undermine the specialized knowledge and skills of the instructor.

Moreover, the requirement for additional oversight by an IS imposes an unnecessary financial burden on the families. Families seeking specialized instruction for their children are already investing significant resources in addressing their educational needs. Requiring the involvement of an IS not only adds another layer of expense but also may not necessarily result in improved outcomes, especially if the IS lacks the specialized expertise in instruction that the child requires.

KidsLink employed a Licensed Wilson Reading System instructor to provide reading support to our scholarship students. The current bill required that an IS provide the initial direct instruction with the reading instructor permitted to “reteach” the information under the supervision of the IS. The IS did not have specialized reading education and needed the reading specialist to present the lesson to her prior to her presenting it to the student. The families were paying for the specialist to teach the IS, then the IS to teach the student, finally the specialist could present the information but only with additional monies being spent for the IS to supervise the reteaching sessions.

In essence, while collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches to education are valuable, it is crucial to ensure that such mandates are grounded in evidence-based practices and do not inadvertently hinder the effectiveness or accessibility of specialized services for students. I urge reconsideration of this requirement in the Ohio Revised Code to better support the needs of students, families and providers.

I am also requesting that remote services under the scholarship be restored to include any service prescribed in the student's IEP.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Katrina Mullen  
Director of Client Engagement  
KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center  
899 Frost Road  
Streetsboro, OH 44241  
kmullen@kidslinkohio.com