

## **KansABA BFSR SIG BOARD STATEMENT UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSING CESS**

The mission of the Kansas Association for Behavior Analysis Behaviorists for Social Responsibility Special Interest Group (KansABA BFSR SIG) is to promote and advance the application of the science of behavior to address social issues, particularly social justice, human rights, and environmental. The KansABA BFSR SIG promotes 'social responsibility' as an action-oriented concept defined by active, sustained efforts to expand political and economic democracy through the continuous building of collective power to combat oppression in all forms. We view our responsibility to each other to contribute to addressing inequities and power imbalances to help create a better world.

**Purpose:** Disseminate a position statement on the use of contingent electric skin shock (CESS) from the KansABA BFSR Board of Planners, which represents a broad collection of voices including those of students, faculty, providers, and other stakeholders. To provide a platform and voice for those in the behavior analytic community, particularly students who are members of KansABA BFSR.

### **Positions:**

1. We unequivocally oppose the use of CESS.
2. We oppose the suppression of voices of those directly impacted by CESS.
3. We oppose the promotion of CESS in the behavior analytic community.

### **In that CESS:**

- Violates human and civil rights;
- Is a byproduct of systemic failures to access facilities that utilize effective evidenced-based practices, particularly for those often experiencing marginalization and vulnerability, including by race/ethnicity and socio-economic status;
- Lacks dignity, undervalues personhood, and may be abusive;
- Causes mental and physical harm;
- Inhibits individual bodily autonomy;
- Lacks procedures for obtaining and safeguarding assent; and
- Is inferior and ineffective in relation to existing evidence-based treatments.

### **Our positions align with those who have condemned CESS, including but not limited to:**

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
- Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis (AzABA)
- Association for Behavior Analysis Australia (ABAA)
- Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)
- Association for Contextual Behavior Science (ACBS)
- Association for Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA)
- Association for University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
- Autism Learning Partners
- California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA)
- Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

- Centria Autism
- Consensus Statement from Clinicians and Researchers Working with Destructive Behavior
- Hopebridge
- ABAI
- Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (ILABA)
- InBloom
- International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD)
- LEARN Behavioral
- Massachusetts Association for Behavior Analysis (MassABA)
- National Council on Disabilities
- Oregon Association for Behavior Analysis (OrABA)
- Trumpet Behavioral Health
- UK Society for Behaviour Analysis (UKSBA)
- United Nations
- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

**Disclaimer:** This statement was prepared and is being disseminated by the KansABA BFSR SIG. This statement is **independent of but has been endorsed by** the KansABA Executive Council. This statement is independent of KansABA members. Additionally, this statement is independent of ABAI, its Executive Council, and its members. This statement is also independent of the Behaviorists for Social Responsibility (BFSR) and BFSR members.

**Permissions:** This statement may be freely reused or distributed to support coordinated efforts in the stand against CESS.

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