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Milford, CT 06460

March 15, 2009

Mr. John Friis  
State of Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Friis:

I am writing with regard to Raised Bill #6666 Section 7: The requirement of certification by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board for anyone providing behavior analysis services for children with autism spectrum disorders. I wholeheartedly support passage of this Bill.

I have worked with children and adults with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities for over 18 years. I have had the pleasure of observing tremendous growth in the individuals with whom I have worked in both public and private settings. Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) possess a unique set of skills founded in evidence-based principles and technologies. BCBAs receive specialized education and training in learning theory which enables them to implement highly successful behavior acquisition and behavior reduction strategies. The impact this expertise has on individuals with autism spectrum disorders is well researched and published.

Individuals who have not received the education and training required to become BCBAs cannot provide the same type or level of behavioral expertise for educating children and adults with autism spectrum disorders who require behavior analysis services. For a child with autism, behavior analysis services provided by a qualified BCBA is essential to his or her well-being and future quality of life.

Again, I support passage of this Bill #6666, Section 7. Thank you so much for your consideration. If I can be of assistance or if you have any questions, please contact me at (203) 676.8179 or at [patriciafitzsimons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patriciafitzsimons@sbcglobal.net).

Most sincerely,  
Patricia Fitzsimons-Austin, M.S., BCBA  
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