

Dr. Michael Rice
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March 8, 2010

Dear Representative Bartlett:

I ask that you please support Section 2 of HB5425 An Act Concerning Special Education. Both federal and state legislation mandate that our public schools utilize evidence based practices for our students with special education needs. Hundreds of scientific studies have shown that applied behavior analysis improves outcomes for children and adults with autism. However, these services need to be provided by someone properly trained in ABA.

The legislation would require that anyone who was hired by our schools to provide applied behavior analysis services be a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst working under the supervision of a BCBA, or a state licensed health care professional whose scope of practice includes behavior analysis.

The "scope of practice" provision is very important, but a bit concerning. Many school psychologists have had possibly one course in Applied Behavior Analysis, Behavior Principles, or the like. Speech and Language pathologists and social workers that I know usually have no training in applied behavior analysis. In order to take the examination for BACB Board Certification, there are a minimum of 5 courses required along with 1500 hours of supervision in activities of a behavior analytic nature.

Thus, having clinicians provide services under their license does raise concerns, that there would be pressure due to the needs in a school, to have school clinicians who have not had adequate training, conduct assessments and develop plans for students. It would be important that school clinicians seek additional formal training Except for this provision, I ask that you support Section 2 of HB5425.

Sincerely,
D. Michael Rice, PhD, BCBA-D
School Psychologist