

r. Michael Weinberg
185 Fabyan Rd.
N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255-1506

March 5, 2010

Dear Representative Fleischmann:

I ask that you please consider a higher level standard of education and training regarding Section 2 of HB5425; An Act Concerning Special Education. Both federal and state legislation mandate that our public schools utilized 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, behavior analysts, and our flagship international organization, the Association for Behavior Analysis International, representing over 16,000 members worldwide, consider that these services need to be provided by someone properly trained.

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 Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and its Practice Board support a higher level of training and education to increase consumer protection as well as quality and effectiveness of behavioral interventions for students with special education needs. The standards include minimally a full master's degree from a program that is accredited by the ABAI Accreditation Board or provides equivalent coursework, and who have had a year of supervised experience under the supervision of someone similarly trained. I hope that you will take this training qualification into consideration in your review of this proposed legislation to ensure children in our state receive the highest level of services available by qualified professionals, and thereby enhance consumer protection.

Sincerely,

Michael Weinberg, Ph.D., BCBA-D