

To: Health & Human Services Committee

From: Stephen Eversole, Ed.D., BCBA-D

Date: February 23, 2011

Re: Testimony in support of SB 799

I would like to express my support for SB 799. Senators Looney & Duff, and State Representative Cafero have proposed this legislation to help protect children with autism from non-credentialed service providers. Having been a behavior analyst for nearly 30 years and a BCBA since the inception of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, I know that absent this protection, children have been harmed and will continue to be harmed.

Applied behavior analysis is a scientific discipline, the roots of which go back to the 1930s. However, its start may be more accurately marked by the introduction of its flagship peer-reviewed scientific publication in 1968—the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. The point is that applied behavior analysis is an established discipline with a strong empirical foundation.

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) was established in 1998 to certify individuals as having minimal qualifications to practice applied behavior analysis. To date, the Board has, I believe, over 8,000 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs). To become a BCBA, an individual must have a Master's degree, completed a very specific curriculum, completed supervision requirements, and passed an exam. The BACB is a member of the National Association of Certifying Agencies (NOCA)—an agency whose mission it is to identify processes that yield valid credentials and recognize organizations that meet their standards.

In summary, BCBAs are members of a true profession that exists at no cost to the taxpayer. They have a set of skills that require years of specialized training to acquire. Please help protect this profession and the consumers of applied behavior analytic services by making it a felony for individuals to falsely claim this credential.

Thank you,

Stephen Eversole, Ed.D., BCBA-D
Owner
Behavior Development Solutions
80 Paper Mill Rd.
Woodbury, CT 06798

Residence: 80 Paper Mill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798