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Hello,

I am a special education teacher. This evening, a friend of mine who is studying to be a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) informed me of a disturbing bill being presented tomorrow morning in the senate. I was unable to find information regarding this bill on the state website so I hope she was misinformed.

The bill she told me about involved various educational professionals (such as myself as a special education teacher) as well as speech pathologists and school psychologists being able to supervise and design an ABA program for students with Autism. I am a certified and practicing special education teacher. I have not been trained in applied behavior analysis. I would certainly not consider myself with my current training to be capable of providing an adequate ABA program for a potential student. I believe that ABA programs should be designed, supervised, and managed under the skilled care of a BCBA. According to current laws and good general practice, students with the most significant needs should be instructed by the most highly qualified and skilled staff. Virtually eliminating the legal necessity for BCBAs would completely undermine this valuable idea.

Again, I was informed of this potential bill this evening by a friend. As I was unsuccessful in finding anything regarding this bill on the state website I am hoping she was misinformed. However, if she is correct in her knowledge, I would like to express my extreme displeasure with such a hurtful idea for children with special needs. Please do not pass a bill that would decrease the level of support our most fragile students receive and deserve. Thank you.

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