

Abigail V. Holt
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Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Member of the Public Health Committee
PHCtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: SB 1089 An Act Concerning Mental Health Services

I support SB 1089 Sections 23-29. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in Connecticut and a licensed behavior analyst in New York. I am also a member of the Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA).

Though behavior analysts are currently credentialed in the form of an international certificate program administered through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), there is need for licensure for behavior analysts at the state level. Currently, 15 states have licensure in behavior analysis: Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Connecticut is surrounded by three of the states that have licensure in behavior analysis.

Licensure in behavior analysis may provide several benefits to both behavior analysis practitioners and consumers of behavior analytic services in the state of Connecticut. Most importantly consumers will have better protection against unqualified persons providing behavior analysis services as well as protection against licensed behavior analysts engaging in unethical practices. Additionally, licensure will require a scope of practice for behavior analysts to be defined within state law. These benefits include: the behavior analyst rights to practice may be protected, the scope of practice for a licensed behavior analyst (LBA) would be defined by law, licensure in behavior analysis may provide opportunities for third-party payouts for services, (e.g. Medicaid, insurance) for autism as well as other diagnosed conditions.

Sincerely,

Abigail V. Holt

Abigail V. Holt, M.A., BCBA