

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Amanda Dix and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and resident of Hamden, CT. I am writing today in support of SB 1089, sections 23-29 in order to pass legislation of licensing Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBA) in Connecticut.

As a resident of Hamden, CT and as a BCBA myself, this legislation is necessary in our state in order to protect the clients we serve. There are many individuals currently receiving services from a provider labeled as a "Behaviorist" or "Behavior Specialist" who many not have the necessary education or training required of us as Behavior Analysts. This means that those individuals may be receiving sub-par services by untrained professionals.

This is especially true of those who may have been practicing in another state such as NY, MA & RI, which have recently passed licensure laws. Those providers who were not able to be licensed in those states may now be traveling to CT to again provide service for which they are not qualified.

There are also many clients we serve who require home and community services outside school hours who rely on insurance funding to pay their staff members/respite providers. There are currently regulations through Medicaid that require practitioners be licensed in the state they provide services. Since Connecticut does not have a licensing system, many of our clients and families do not receive funding for their home services which are so necessary.

In closing, please consider passing this bill to license Behavior Analysts in the state of Connecticut. This will ensure our clients continue to receive the best services possible from those who are most qualified to do so.

Thank you for your time,

Amanda Dix, M.S., BCBA