

March 16, 2015

**Regarding SB 1089 sections 23-29-licensure for behavior analysts**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of my correspondence is to provide support for SB 1089 sections 23-29 and respectfully ask that you pass this important bill. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) working with consumers in central and southeastern regions of Connecticut. I first became certified in 2004 as an assistant behavior analyst (BCaBA) and became a BCBA in 2006. In the past decade the field of behavior analysis has grown, with 19 states currently offering licensure. These states include our three neighboring states; New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

This bill has the ability to provide protection to consumers of behavior analytic services. The majority of consumers that I have the pleasure of working with are families affected by autism spectrum disorders. These families are often dealing with difficult diagnoses and are searching for answers, leaving them vulnerable at times. SB 1089 sections 23-29 will add an essential layer of protection for families seeking behavior analytic services. Licensure for behavior analysts is a significant step in the right direction to ensuring that consumers of behavior analysis are receiving services from a qualified individual.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Amber Walker, M.A., BCBA