

1089

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Carol J Bunk and I am a resident of Seymour, CT. I am also a School Principal who serves students who require Behavior Analytic services. I am writing to express my strong support for sections 23 – 29 of SB 1089 “An Act Concerning Mental Health Services.”

I have worked with BCBAs in the field of education for many years. I have found them to be a key to providing vital services to children on the spectrum as well as students with behavior disabilities. They are highly educated and have completed rigorous course work and completed a comprehensive examination. They should be recognized through state licensure. This would also differentiate those who call themselves “Behaviorists” without the true credentials or training.

Behavior Analysts work collaboratively and effectively in teams with professionals of other disciplines, with parents, and with district administrators to provide optimal clinical and educational services to Connecticut’s very special children. Their coworkers know, respect, and appreciate the skill a Behavior Analyst brings. It has been a true success story for children in Connecticut.

It is time that Connecticut joined the group of 19 states (including NY and MA) who have already put licensure in place for Behavior Analysts. Doing so will alleviate the confusion and concern of families by insuring that those providing behavior analytic services are competent and qualified. It will protect Connecticut children by preventing individuals from misrepresenting their skills and services. And, through incorporation into the new Medicaid regulations, it can enable a family to more easily obtain private insurance funding for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote to pass SB 1089 sections 23-29 as written.

Carol J Bunk
Principal, ACES Village School