

Charles Kochan III
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Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 1089 sections 23-29, which, in my belief, includes the overwhelmingly necessary language to allow behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts to become licensed through the state of Connecticut. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) currently working in the mental health field, there is a strong need to license behavior analysts. Upcoming regulations being introduced into the Medicaid insurance policies may include licensure as part of the provider experiential requirements, which would adversely affect many behavior analysts, including myself, who are seeking to provide services to those who would qualify under our state's Husky insurance. I recently attended a conference on this matter and it was suggested that roughly 6,000 individuals will be eligible for services under this new plan, but without licensure there will be very few existing behavior analysts who would qualify as a provider for these services. It is very unrealistic for those existing licensed behavior analysts (licensed within a different field like social work) to provide services to all those individuals. Furthermore, licensure may make it easier for families to access behavior analytic services through private insurance companies as well.

Aside from insurance reasons, there are other reasons why licensure is important. Historically, the state of Connecticut has been a leader in the United States for supporting educational efforts that benefit the welfare of its inhabitants. For teaching certifications, most other states accept our certification when applying for out of state certifications because our state holds its teachers to a very high educational standard. Likewise, Connecticut can join the surrounding states that are already setting this example including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Let Connecticut be one of the leaders that other states will look to as an example by supporting licensure of behavior analysts.

In summary, I am fully in support of SB 1089 (sections 23-29) and the language it includes to license behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts in the state of Connecticut. This is definitely policy which is needed currently and will continue to be a necessity in the future as more public policy includes the need for certifications and guidelines that protect consumers from receiving services from individuals inaccurately representing themselves as behavior analysts.

Sincerely,

Charles Kochan III

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