

1089

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in support of SB 1089 sections 23-29.

I am a behavior analyst who has been working as a behavior analyst in this Connecticut since 2002. Applied Behavior Analysis is a scientific approach to educating individuals with severe disabilities that involves...

1. Identifying an individual's specific learning needs (that are often different than most of their peers)
2. Developing an individualized curriculum for that learner that addresses those individual needs
3. Constantly monitoring (e.g. weekly, daily, hourly) progress to ensure that interventions that are implemented are effective and safe.

There are currently over 450 behavior analysts in CT certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)...

(<http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=100155&by=state&state=CT&pagenum=1>

who are qualified to practice Applied Behavior Analysis as described by the BACB. There are even more people in this state practicing behavior analysis including people who do not meet the (educational, supervised experience, ethical) standards prescribed by the BACB. Another troubling fact is that the standards set by the BACB are not currently recognized by health care providers/insurance companies such that these services cannot be provided to many individuals who do not have the financial capabilities to access these services using their health care coverage.

Licensure of Behavior Analysts in Connecticut will help to ensure that the individuals in Connecticut will be able to access only the highest quality services, but also that there will be a mechanism of oversight that will provide protection for the citizens of Connecticut; especially those with disabilities who require these services.

I hope you will support the citizens of Connecticut who have special education needs by supporting SB 1089 sections 23-29.

Thank-you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions at any time regarding Applied Behavior Analysis, I encourage you to feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Daniel Smith
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