

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Danielle Sunter and I am a resident of North Branford, CT. I am writing to express my strong support for sections 23 – 29 of SB 1089 “An Act Concerning Mental Health Services.”

I have been a Board Certified Behavior Analyst for the past 4 years, providing behavior analytic services to children with autism and related disabilities. I work for Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) and I have worked in both consultation for local public school districts and in our internal autism programs. While behavior analytic services are highly valuable to children with autism and related disabilities, not everyone is aware of the benefit of these services or of the qualifications required to provide services as a behavior analyst. Therefore, I have spent a lot of time disseminating information and justifying a behavior analyst’s role in educational settings. While other professionals I work with in schools have licensures and certifications through the state of Connecticut, behavior analysts do not because there is no license currently available in our state.

Connecticut should become one of the many states who have put licensure in place for Behavior Analysts to clarify our role and qualifications to provide Applied Behavior Analytic services to children throughout the state. I respectfully request that you vote to pass SB 1089 sections 23-29 as written.

Thank you,

*Danielle Sunter, M.S., BCBA*