

I am writing in support of SB 1089, An Act Concerning Mental Health Services. In particular, I am writing to support Sections 23-29, which have to do with the licensure of Behavior Analysts.

As a faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, I have seen first-hand the demand for behavior-analytic services in the state, particularly in the “quiet corner”. I regularly receive requests from families in the Windham area asking for qualified students to work with their loved ones using applied behavior analysis techniques. As the coordinator of Eastern’s Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) training program, I know that we are able to train a small number of individuals to the standards of the Behavior Analysis Certification Board, but even with local training programs, there is still a demand for high-quality applied behavior analysts. Licensure of behavior analysts would ensure that the professionals that are practicing applied behavior analysis meet accepted standards and would provide high-quality services. Additionally, the licensure requirements may increase the demand for training in behavior analysis via programs such as the one at my institution and at Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University.

The standards for training of Board Certified Behavior Analysts is set by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB), an independent credentialing organization. The requirements set by the BACB are becoming progressively more stringent, with a goal of increasing the quality of services delivered.

Because behavior analysis is a clearly defined discipline, the practice of applied behavior analysis does not impinge on the scope of practice of other professionals. Behavior analysts typically work with vulnerable populations (e.g., individuals with developmental disabilities), and the development of licensure in Connecticut is an important step to protect the consumers of these services.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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