



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies

Senator Terry Gerratana and Representative Matt Ritter
Committee Co-Chairs
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

3/16/2015

Dear Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter,

I am writing to support sections 23 – 29 of SB 1089: An Act Concerning Mental Health Services. These sections outline licensure for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. Board Certified Behavior Analysts have been recognized in both CT legislation and policy as trained professionals who can support the educational and behavioral development of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related disabilities and those with significant challenging behavior. Additionally, the titles Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) are protected titles through legislation. That title act was the result of misbehavior by someone presenting false credentials as a behavior analyst. The need for consumer protection is the primary reason I support licensure. Supporting the practice of behavior analysis is needed at this time due to its expanding influence and individuals becoming certified each year.

This bill is also necessary to allow the state a mechanism to regulate the practice of behavior analysis while recognizing national standards of established training required for certification. I applaud this effort to promote the provision of effective, evidence-based practices and to protect the consumers in the state consistent with other professions serving vulnerable populations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Molteni".

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