

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

PHCtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: SB 1089 An Act Concerning Mental Health Services

I am writing this letter to express my support for SB 1089 Sections 23-29. I am a member of the Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA), a practicing behavior analyst (Board Certified Behavior Analyst; BCBA), and a faculty member in the Applied Behavioral Studies Program at the University of Saint Joseph. I work predominantly with children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families, all of which are vulnerable populations in need of effective services and protection from malpractice by unqualified providers.

The need for quality behavior analytic services is clear among individuals with ASD as well as other intellectual, developmental and behavioral disorders. Accordingly, as of now, 15 others states are licensing behavior analysts, including our surrounding states such as NY, MA and RI. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) currently oversees behavior analysts; however, licensure for behavior analysts at the state level may improve the protection of clients from those not qualified to provide behavior analytic services, protect behavior analyst's right to practice, provide opportunities for third-party reimbursement for services, and provide a regulatory body to monitor those who do not meet the minimal training and ethical guidelines required by the licensure.

I greatly appreciate your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura B. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura B. Turner, Ph.D., BCBA  
Assistant Professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies  
Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies  
University of Saint Joseph  
1678 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
(860) 231-5802  
[lturner@usj.edu](mailto:lturner@usj.edu)