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Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee
PHCtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: SB 1089 An Act Concerning Mental Health Services

This letter is in support of SB 1089, An Act Concerning Mental Health Services, and Sections 23-29. It is important that behavior analyst have a license in the State of Connecticut. Behavioral health professionals (e.g., marriage and family therapist, social workers, and psychologist) are eligible for a State issued license, as long as the candidate meets the scope of practice requirements outlined in the statutes. Licensure for behavioral health professionals, including behavior analysts, ensures a greater level of consumer protection regarding the level of education, supervision, and ethical practice of a profession.

Increased consumer protection is imperative as behavior analysts often work with the most vulnerable of populations (e.g., those with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, intellectual disability, other developmental disabilities, and behavior disorders). Licensure will provide consumers of behavior analysis (e.g., families, public school districts, DDS, private insurance providers, and Medicaid providers) a means of regulating the practice of applied behavior analysis (ABA).

This licensure bill includes specific language which protects the rights of professionals, other than behavior analyst, who have behavior analysis within their scope of practice; therefore, this licensure bill will not impact the scope of practice for other professionals (e.g., licensed psychologist).

Thank you for considering these comments,

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