

3/16/2015

Good afternoon,

As one of the 457 BCBAs/BCaBAs residing in Connecticut, I support Bill 1089 sec 23-29. We need licensure for BCBAs and BCaBAs; licensure is crucial to the many consumers of behavior analytic services in Connecticut.

The risk of using unqualified professionals is significant, particularly given the vulnerable populations we often service as Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Not only are individuals losing out on effective treatment by qualified professionals, but we also may have to undue years of ineffective treatment implemented by unqualified individuals.

Anyone currently calling themselves a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who has not been certified by the BACB would be committing a felony under current statutes. This addresses the concern of people claiming to be BCBAs; however, often individuals are using other similar and confusing titles such as "behaviorist", in the absence of other appropriate credentials. Consumers of behavior analytic services (often parents) must be extremely savvy to recognize the difference between a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a "behaviorist". Without licensure, these individuals continue to practice with Connecticut's vulnerable populations.

Nineteen other states have licensure for Behavior Analysts, including New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. This means that individuals who are not licensed can no longer legally practice in these states. Unfortunately, they can continue to practice in Connecticut and live close enough for them to do so.

Public Acts are in place that require public schools to use BCBAs or other credentialed individuals on student's IEPs. Private consumers of behavior analytic services are left unprotected, and licensure will provide the regulation that is currently absent.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cranmer, MS, BCBA

Wallingford Resident