

March 17, 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

This letter will serve to provide testimony and support of SB 1089 (sections 23-29) in favor of licensure of behavior analysts in the State of Connecticut. I believe that behavioral services provided to children with special needs deserve qualified and expert care and that expertise must be certified.

Our granddaughter has a Master's Degree in Special Education and is an educator for children with a range of disabilities including autism, mental disparities and other behavioral disorders in Buffalo, NY. I have heard first hand how important it is for these children to receive instructional care from qualified educators and caring staff. Children who cannot express their thoughts are especially venerable and deserve high quality educational services.

I urge you to pass this bill that will provide protection for children and their families while they are in the educational system.

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