



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

March 17, 2015

Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3000
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Re: House Bill 1089 Sections 23-29

Chairman Gerratana, Chairman Ritter and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today in support of House Bill 1089, specifically Sections 23-29. This portion of the legislation would provide for licensure for Board Certified Behavior Analysts in the State of Connecticut.

Autism Speaks, the non-profit on whose behalf I write, is the world's largest advocacy and research organization committed to the issue of autism spectrum disorder. A major part of our advocacy efforts is specific to healthcare initiatives on the state level. Connecticut led the way in 2009 as the thirteenth state to pass meaningful autism insurance reform legislation that requires coverage of evidence based autism treatment by private health insurance. Subsequent to guidance by CMS in July, 2014, Connecticut is also now in the process of implementing coverage of applied behavior analysis under the EPSDT provisions of federal Medicaid law.

[Connecticut's autism insurance law](#) specifically references the provision and supervision of behavioral health treatments like applied behavior analysis by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's). This is consistent with the 38 other states that have enacted meaningful autism insurance reform. In addition, 19 of these states have moved forward with licensure legislation specific to BCBA's, including neighboring states, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism now impacts 1 in 68 children. Many of these individuals will require access to meaningful behavioral health treatments, like applied behavior analysis over their lifetime. Autism Speaks fully supports licensure of Board Certified Behavior Analysts and encourages you to pass HB 1089 favorably out of the Public Health Committee as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information at judith.ursitti@autismspeaks.org.

Sincerely

Judith Ursitti
Director State Government Affairs