

1089

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Leslie Peters and I am a resident of Branford, CT. I am also the Principal for the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) Center for Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disorders in Northford, CT. Prior to taking this position, I was the speech-language pathologist at the school and have maintained my licensure as an SLP. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for sections 23-29 of SB 1089 "An Act Concerning Mental Health Services."

The ACES Autism Center operates as an ABA program in which each classroom is co-lead by a special education teacher and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). We provide services to students with autism who are 11-21 years of age, many of whom experience significant behavioral difficulties. Our Behavior Analysts are instrumental in assessing student's behavior and developing an appropriate behavior intervention plan in order to improve the student's ability to perform in the classroom, at home, and in the community.

I believe that it is of the utmost importance for the state to put licensure in place for Behavior Analysts. Without it, families and programs run the risk of encountering individuals who misrepresent themselves as BCBA's, and the negative consequences that go along with that. There are 19 other states that already have put licensing in place and it is time that Connecticut join the ranks. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you vote to pass SB 1089 sections 23-29 as written.

Sincerely,

Leslie Peters M.S., CCC/SLP
ACES Center for Autism Spectrum & Developmental Disorders