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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**

I support SB 1089 Sections 23-29. As a brand new Board Certified Behavior Analyst in the state of Connecticut, I want to be sure that field of behavior analysis within the state of Connecticut is respected and represented by the people that have taken the courses and passed a rigorous Board Certification process. I attended four years of graduate school, focusing on Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism. During this time, I obtained 1500 hours of supervised experience, demonstrating proficiency with all 75 items on the Certification Boards Task List.

Licensure for behavior analyst will increase consumer protection, 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).

Thank you for considering these comments,

  
Linda C. Smith  
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