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Dear Members of the Connecticut State Public Health Committee:

I am writing to urge this committee to recommend that **SB1089, sections 23 through 29**, requiring *licensing of behavior analysts*, be supported and ultimately adopted in its current form. History has demonstrated that state licensure is critical in order to protect consumers and assure that competent professionals provide services.

As a speech and language pathologist (SLP), who has been licensed in Connecticut since 1978, I am acutely aware of the benefit of such oversight. Connecticut was at the forefront in this regard, creating SLP licensure only 5 years after the first state required licensure in 1969. Since then, every state, as well as the District of Columbia, has made SLP licensure a requirement.

This committee should also consider that Connecticut state regulations concerning speech and language pathologists continue incorporate language requiring **graduation from a program accredited by the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA)**. There is also specific language that **recognizes the value of the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency (CCC-SLP)**.

This history suggests that there is an appreciation in Connecticut that both **licensure and certification play fundamental roles in regard to providing consumers with quality care**. Each provides a unique and important contribution. In regard to the proposed legislation regarding behavior analysts, it would be wise to consider the following.

- State licensure provides basic consumer protection, as well as a legal mechanism that allows **the state** to prosecute or otherwise be in control of incompetent or unethical practitioners
- Certification provides an **additional layer of consumer protection** by assuring that practitioners have met the rigorous requirements established by their professional governing body. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) continues to be the internationally recognized body that establishes standard of care, professional and ethical behavior, provision of continuing education, and access to professional collaboration for those professionals who have demonstrated competency in the area of Applied Behavior Analysis. In addition, demonstration that a practitioner is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) indicates a commitment to be overseen by **their professional community**.

It is my fervent hope that this committee will consider these comments and approve the current version of SB1089, sections 23-29. Thank you in advance for your time and interest in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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