

March 16, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

**Re: HB 1089 Sections 23-29**

My name is Patrick O'Leary and I am in support of HB 1089 and licensure of behavior analysts. I have been a practicing behavior analyst, certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, since September 2013.

Licensure for behavior analysts will increase protection for the consumers with whom they work. Behavior analysts often work with very young children such as those with autism or learning disabilities. Licensing behavior analysts should assure that these consumers are protected against unqualified persons providing services.

Licensure will also assure that the scope of practice of behavior analysts would be defined by state law. This would assure that behavior analysts provide consumers with the appropriate services of which they are trained. These measures will protect consumers from fraudulent and/or unethical delivery of behavior analytic services.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter;

*Patrick O'Leary, M.A., BCBA*

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