

To: Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

From: Kristine L. Marino, M.S., BCBA
Clinical Director
Connecticut Center for Child Development
Milford, CT 06461

Date: March 3, 2015

RE: **Letter of support for Governor's bill 6847 with modification**
AN ACT ENHANCING ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND
SERVICES FOR YOUTHS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

I am writing to express my support the Governor's bill 6847, but request one modification to section 5(c) to include treatment plans developed by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's). This bill currently states:

Such policy shall provide coverage for the following treatments, provided such treatments are (1) medically necessary, and (2) identified and ordered by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist or licensed clinical social worker for an insured who is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, in accordance with a treatment plan developed by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist or licensed clinical social worker pursuant to a comprehensive evaluation or reevaluation of the insured.

I ask you to please consider revising this section to state as follows:

Such policy shall provide coverage for the following treatments, provided such treatments are (1) medically necessary, and (2) identified and ordered by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist or licensed clinical social worker for an insured who is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, in accordance with a treatment plan developed by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker pursuant to a comprehensive evaluation or reevaluation of the insured.

BCBAs must create and monitor treatment plans for each individual they work with, in order for behavioral intervention to be effective. Failure to do so would go against best practices and violate our ethical guidelines. Thank you for considering this request.

Yours truly,



Kristine L. Marino, M.S., BCBA, Resident of New Haven, CT