

Abigail V. Holt  
469 Black Rock Turnpike  
Redding, CT 06896  
March 1, 2016

Senator Blumenthal, Representative Himes and Members of the Public Health Committee  
[phtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:phtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

**RE: SB 292 An Act Concerning Behavior Analysts**

I support SB 292. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in Connecticut and a licensed behavior analyst in New York. I am also a member of the Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis.

There are 548 Board Certified Behavior Analysts in Connecticut. Though behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts are credentialed in the form of an international certificate program administered through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, there is need for licensure at the state level. Currently, there are 24 states that have licensure in behavior analysis and Connecticut is surrounded by three of these states.

Licensure in behavior analysis may provide several benefits to consumers of behavior analytic services and behavior analysis practitioners. Consumers will have better protection against unqualified persons providing behavior analysis services and licensed behavior analysts engaging in unethical practices. Also, licensure will require a scope of practice for behavior analysts to be defined within state law and will support third party reimbursements for behavior analytic services.

I support SB 292 as written; however, I am also recommending that an exception be added to the bill that allows for direct line staff who work under a licensed Behavior Analyst or licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst. The roles of these staff are crucial in the implementation of behavior analytic services and they are currently recognized in insurance legislation.

Sincerely,

*Abigail V. Holt*

---

Abigail V. Holt, M.A., BCBA