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Dear Members of the Connecticut State Public Health Committee:

I am writing to urge this committee to recommend that **SB292**, requiring *licensing of behavior analysts and assistant 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 to 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**. In regard to the proposed legislation

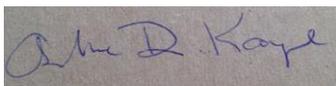
regarding behavior analysts, it would be wise to consider the following.

- 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. This legislation will not only lead to improved consumer protections but will expand access to behavior analytic services your constituents by providing added definition to support third party reimbursement.
- 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) or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) indicates a commitment to be overseen by **their professional community**.

Not only have our neighbors, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island adopted licensure bills, but also, 21 other states have done so, noting the benefit to consumers, practitioners and state government.

It is my fervent hope that this committee will consider these comments and approve the current version of SB292. On behalf of the 548 certified individuals in the great state of Connecticut as well as the clients we service, I thank you in advance for your time and interest in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arlene D. Kaye". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid grey rectangular box.

Arlene Dworkin Kaye, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCBA