

Jenna Riccio
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Dear Members of the Committee,

Currently, I am attending Southern Connecticut State University and am preparing to take my exam to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). I have worked as a Special educator and in the field of Special education in school for six years. I am writing in support of SB 292 as it affects my future as a BCBA and consumers of my services. A bill to support the licensure is extremely important and necessary to provide services as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and protecting consumers of applied behavior analytic (ABA) services. There is a strong need to license Behavior analysts. This will protect consumers of ABA by allowing qualified individuals with the proper training and certificate, and their directly trained staff to work with clients that need our help. When SB 292 passes this will protect clients from being treated by unqualified individuals that do not have the education of ethical treatment and the scientific process.

This bill is also important in the world of insurance, such as Medicare, and providing services to clients. This will be huge for the families in my school and community. The push of policies of licensure as part of the providers' requirements will adversely affect many behavior analysts and clients in need of services if we do not pass this bill. With this passing of this bill clients will get the services they require paid for and lift a vast financial burden off of them. Licensure will expand the access to behavior analytic services through insurance which many families need. Licensure will support third party reimbursement and make it easier for families to access behavior analytic services through private insurance companies as well.

It is also important to note that staff directly trained by a licensed BCBA's should also be considered in the writing of this bill (Assistant Behavior Analyst, Registered behavior technicians and support staff). It is very important that these mentioned individuals, directly trained by BCBA's, are able to implement treatment plans supervised. They are a vital component of treatment and the implementation of successful plans.

In summary, I support of SB 292 and language that includes to license behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts and directly supervised staff in the state of Connecticut. If passed, this bill will provide clients in need with appropriate treatment from qualified individuals.

Sincerely,

Jenna Riccio, M.S.