

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I am a BCBA residing in Connecticut. I have been working with people with special needs; autism, intellectual deficits, dementia, psychiatric diagnosis, substance abuse, etc. since 1979. I have seen many changes in "best practice" over the years. ABA has been one of the most positive.

In addition to working with individuals with special needs, I have two nephews on the Autism Spectrum. I have spent much time with my sisters, helping them to meet the needs of their sons. The challenges that face families of people with special needs are many and as varied as the individuals being served.

Many families seek assistance from professionals to meet their needs. Many professionals (doctors, nurses, social workers,) are already licensed. I believe that the passage of SB 292 will help to protect consumers and funders of ABA services.

New York, Rhode Island and Massachussets, as well as 21 other states, already have licensure in place. This licensure could be incorporated into medicaid regulations. Many more states are exploring licensure. Connecticut should be a leader, not a follower, in providing services to individuals with special needs.

I sincerely hope you will move forward with SB 292.

Thank you

Kathleen Watkins, B.C.B.A.
Danbury, CT