

To: Public Health Committee

From: Kristine L. Marino, M.S., BCBA  
42 Lantern View Drive, Branford, CT 06405

Date: March 1, 2016

RE: Letter of Support for SB 292: An Act Concerning Behavior Analysts

Dear members of the committee,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB 292, An Act Concerning Behavior Analysts. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and have worked with students with autism for the past 15 years. As a BCBA, I can attest to the high standard of education and rigorous training that I received in order to obtain my credential. I am required to adhere to a strict ethical and professional codes, as well as to be knowledgeable about current research in my field through continuing education to ensure best practice.

I have witnessed firsthand many cases of unqualified people working independently who identify themselves "behaviorists" or other similar titles but who have no credentials, minimal experience and insufficient training, but present themselves as being equally qualified as myself. In many cases this leads to ineffective treatment for some of our most vulnerable populations for whom every second treatment counts. To date, 24 other states, including all of those surrounding Connecticut, have passed legislation to license Board Certified Behavior Analysts in order to protect our consumers. I urge you to consider the importance of a credential for BCBA's recognized by our state, so that our consumers and their families can quickly and easily find proper treatment.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.