

Bill Number- SB 292

March 1, 2016

My name is Ruel Dixon and I am a BCBA working in a school district in Connecticut through Area Cooperative educational serves (ACES). I currently am a consultant but also work as a home instructor. I started as a one to one in a school setting and went through the academic and professional growth to get to where I am today.

I think it is imperative that our state license BCBA and BCaba's. This licensure will improve protection for our clients. There are a lot of individuals that claim that they are providing BCBA services to families and are not practicing based on the guidelines we should all follow as BCBA's. The licensing of BCBA's enables families to be protected from situations like these.

There are numerous states who allow licensure for BCBA's and when talking to other BA's and past classmates, it's depressing to know the range of services they can provide to individuals because of licensure. Not only can they provide more services but it gives them a range of access to clients that may be out of the range of service that a company may offer. Knowing that our surrounding states (NY, MA and RI) have already offered licensure to BCBA's makes me wonder why an advancing state like Connecticut hasn't done the same.

There is a vast number of BCBA's in the state of Connecticut and together we can effectively approach behavioral issues and be great advocates and promoters of behavior analytical services in and outside our state. This may ensure further growth in the field of Behavior Analysis, further acceptance of the science and many other positive feats. I think is a blessing to know that with licensure we'd no longer have to say no to a client that is in need of services outside of a company's service area.

As someone who still and has worked in the home setting, it is great to know that you have protection by/or the law on your side when working under a BCBA. It would be great if the current bill would be amended to include direct line staff that is working under a BCBA or a BCaba. That sense of security takes a lot off ones shoulder and give them one less thing to worry about when providing services.

I hope that our state truly realize the benefits of passing this bill and lets work together to a more effective and productive Connecticut and provide the best services for our populations.

Sincerely,

Ruel Dixon, M.A., BCBA