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Testimony Submitted to the Public Health Committee Regarding Raised Bill No. 292,
An Act Concerning Behavior Analysts

March 2, 2016

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I am Stan Soby, Vice President for Public Policy and External Affairs, at the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, known as Oak Hill, a recognized leader in providing community-based programs over the lifespan: housing, employment training, education, assistive technology, healthy relationships, early intervention, and recreation to children and adults with multiple disabilities (including visual impairments). Oak Hill employs over 1,300 professionals who work at our 115 program sites located in 55 towns throughout Connecticut.

Among those professionals, we employ those who hold the BCBA certification. We also employ Master's level staffs who qualify to create, implement and evaluate behavioral support programming under policy and procedures set by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). We understand the issues caused when unqualified individuals have presented themselves as 'Behavior Analysts'. We are asking consideration of more than one pathway to licensure, using DDS Procedure 1.E.PR.002, which follows, as a possible framework.

"D. Standards Of Practice For Behavioral Programming

Program Author Qualifications

Any individual given the responsibility to develop behavioral programming for an individual will at a minimum meet one of the following requirements (Note- This outline of author qualifications is consistent with DDS Provider Qualifications for those providing Clinical Behavioral Support Services):

1. State licensure as a psychologist as prescribed in CGS 383 or
2. State Licensure as a Clinical Social Worker as prescribed in CGS 383b or
3. Board Certification as a Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certification as an Associate Behavior Analyst (BCABA) or
4. A Masters or doctoral degree in Psychology, Social Work, Special Education or Applied Behavior Analysis or Licensure as a counselor as prescribed in CGS 383a or 383c – and
 - a. Coursework in Human Behavior and
 - b. Coursework and/or experience in developing behavioral treatment plans and
 - c. At least 2 years of experience providing behavioral supports to people with intellectual disabilities. -or-
5. A Bachelor's degree in psychology, special education or other related field and review and approval by the DDS Behavioral Support Services Panel.
 - a. Coursework in Human Behavior and
 - b. Coursework and/or experience in developing behavioral treatment plans and

c. At least 3 years of experience providing behavioral supports to people with intellectual disabilities.”

With the increasing prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders, we believe a broader pool of licensed and qualified professionals better serves the needs of people with ASD and other disabilities in realizing their full potential.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.