

To the Connecticut Public Health Committee,

I would like to send this letter as support for SB 292, licensure for Behavior Analysis practitioners. As a behavior analyst living and practicing in Connecticut, I wholeheartedly support this bill as a protection, not only for behavior analysts, but, more importantly, for the consumers within the state that deserve the best services that can be provided. There are numerous key points in support of this legislation: our surrounding states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York) along with 21 other states have adopted this practice, seeing it as a vital protection of these beneficial services; 548 individuals are certified as behavior analysts in the state of Connecticut and deserve the same protections in their scope of practice as social workers, psychologists, and occupational therapists; within Medicaid regulations and insurance coverage, licensure demonstrates expertise and ensures protections for families which makes gaining coverage easier. These points only help to support the need, but the most important reason are the protections that licensure provides. Currently, experience is enough to be considered a provider of behavior analysis and even the term "behavior analyst" which numerous individuals study and strive for, is used in other areas to describe individuals with no background in the field or training in the science necessary to provide the best services possible. This is a disservice to the parents, schools, and other treatment providers working with individuals who benefit from this science.

I would, once again, enthusiastically, like to show my support for SB 292. This is a vital piece of legislation that Connecticut needs to take seriously and adopt to protect not only the science of behavior analysis, but, most importantly, our families that benefit from it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Heslin, MA, BCBA