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TESTIMONY ON HB 2690
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
MARCH 7, 2016

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as a proponent for HB 2690. I am Max Foster, the Executive Director of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB).

The BSRB is the licensing board for most of the state's mental health professionals including; licensed psychologists, master level psychologists, clinical psychotherapists, bachelor, master and specialist clinical level social workers, master and clinical level professional counselors, master and clinical level marriage and family therapists, addiction counselors, and clinical level addiction counselors.

As a result of the Passage of HB 2744 in the 2014 legislative session, effective July 1, 2016 our agency will be licensing behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. The BSRB created a behavior analyst advisory committee that has been working with the board in the process of the promulgation of the rules and regulations associated with the licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. In doing so, we discovered that the current licensure statutes were silent in a number of basic requirements, therefore HB 2690 has been introduced in order to correct these deficiencies. Specifically, the new sections in HB 2690 detail the process to apply for a license; duration of the license; temporary license permits; information confidentiality requirements; licensure fees; reciprocity; reasons to refuse to issue, renew or reinstate a license; and the grounds to condition, limit suspend or revoke a license.

As we reviewed the contents of HB 2690, it became apparent that a few amendments to the bill were necessary. These proposed amendments reflect current practices, and are consistent with the Behavior Analyst model licensure act. They are as follows:

We are requesting an addition to Page 1 - New section 1:

- Line 29, new (f) "an applied behavioral technician or tutor who acts under the extended authority and direction of a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst."

Additionally, we have found a few small but substantive changes to Page 2, New Section 2:

- Line 26, add "or" after semicolon.
- Line 31, remove "postgraduate."
- Line 41, remove "or."
- Line 42, remove "postgraduate."

In summary, the language in HB 2690 can be viewed as a technical "clean up" to HB 2744.

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members I wish to thank you for the opportunity to testify to the committee today and I will be happy to stand for questions.