

Representative Scott Schwab
Chair of the Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions

March 3, 2016

Re: **HB 2690**

Dear Representative Schwab,

I am writing in support of **HB 2690**, which is the bill for licensing behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts to provide applied behavior analysis services in Kansas. I am faculty in the Applied Behavioral Science department at the University of Kansas and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (Certificant #1-01-0436) at the doctoral level. I have been working in the field of behavior analysis for 18 years. I not only teach, train, and supervise future behavior analysts at both the undergraduate and graduate level, but I also serve as a clinical consultant and director for several programs serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism spectrum disorders. *It is important to note at this time that this written testimony is by me and does not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Applied Behavioral Science or the University of Kansas.* Below are the major reasons why I am in support of this bill.

1. Applied behavior analysis involves assessment and intervention procedures that are empirically validated for decreasing the occurrence of inappropriate behavior (e.g., self-injury, physical aggression) and increasing important appropriate behaviors that increase independence and quality of life (e.g., language and communication, social skills, daily living skills) for various populations and age-groups (e.g., individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, learning difficulties, behavior problems, and various challenges in typical development). Decades of research supports the use of these procedures for affecting behavior change. Thus, the availability of these services by trained and experienced professionals is much needed in the state of Kansas.
2. Licensing behavior analysts will help consumers of behavior analysis services identify professionals with the appropriate training and experience to provide those services.
3. Licensing behavior analysts will allow consumers recourse when they are concerned about the services being provided.
4. Numerous states around the country have already passed similar legislation and are drawing professionals and service providers into their states and away from states who do not license behavior analysts.

I have thoroughly reviewed the bill, and as someone who provides these services under my current certification, I urge you to support HB 2690 to protect consumers who receive treatment based on applied behavior analysis and to regulate the practice of applied behavior analysis.

Sincerely,

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