



ATAM – The Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

February 18, 2024

RE: Support HF 3741 / SF 3523

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Wiklund:

I am the President of the Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota, a trade group that is composed of 13 agency members of both in-home and center-based providers. These agencies serve over 6,000 children and adults in their homes, schools, community, and service centers through a variety of professions, including behavior analysis.

These organizations, along with the Board of Psychology and the Minnesota Psychological Association, support the passage of HF 3741(Edelson)/SF 3523(Kupec), a behavior analyst licensing bill, to protect these vulnerable populations and provide a local process to investigate complaints and discipline bad actors where allegations are proven.

The Council of Minnesota Health Boards has recommended that behavior analysts be licensed in Minnesota based on the national Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) credential. There are 470 BCBAs and BCaBAs who hold that credential in Minnesota. Thirty-seven other States, including all of Minnesota's surrounding States, already have laws that license behavior analysts.

The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that there are 100,000 children in Minnesota with behavioral health needs. 32,000 children in Minnesota have Medical Assistance for behavioral health needs which can be met through Behavior Analysis services as part of a plan of coordinated care with other helping professions.

The intent of this bill is to license behavior analysts without impacting the existing licensed professions who provide needed behavioral health services. The bill exempts any professionals who provide behavior analytic services within their existing scope of practice. The bill also creates a Behavior Analyst Advisory Council that will collaborate with the existing Board of Psychology in implementing the Minnesota License and promote quality services.

A Minnesota licensure will protect the public by discouraging unlicensed or sanctioned behavior analysts from moving into Minnesota. It will also keep competent behavior analysts from moving out of the State for better career prospects. Just as in other health professions, consumers will have the assurance that comes with knowing a behavior analyst has a license and the benefit of a local process to file a complaint. It also expands a career pathway that can lead to retention and recruitment of critical providers to meet the demand for these services in the years to come.

Please support this much needed licensure protection for Minnesotans.

Yours,

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President,
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