



**ATAM – The Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota**

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February 26, 2024

**RE: Support HF 3741 / SF 3523**

Senator Ron Latz  
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Latz:

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 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 healthcare professions who provide needed behavioral health and special needs services. The bill includes exemptions for any professionals who currently provide behavior analytic services within their existing scope of practice or current employment.

The bill also creates a Behavior Analyst Advisory Council that will collaborate with the Board of Psychology in implementing the Minnesota License. The language of the bill mirrors the Psychological Practice Act wherever possible. The licensure will be administered by the existing Board of Psychology and utilize the existing credentialing system of the national Behavior Analysis Certification Board, keeping costs to a minimum.

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. With licensure, 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. This licensure bill will provide for the same regulation and protections that exist for the other Minnesota health professions. 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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