

The BABAT Board of Directors has established a general position statement that has been unanimously endorsed by the Board. BABAT does not oppose the concept of licensure for behavior analysts; however, we do oppose ABAI's model licensing act as it removes the credentialing process from the BACB and creates unnecessary hardships for qualified behavior analysts to practice their profession. BABAT's Board would prefer that the right to practice for BACB-credentialed behavior analysts be written into Massachusetts regulations. If a licensure bill does move through the Massachusetts legislature, BABAT would support a licensure bill if that bill was endorsed by the BACB. It is the intention of the BABAT Board to put this position statement to a vote of members following the annual meeting in October.

Towards that end BABAT has been monitoring acts relevant to behavior analysts in the Massachusetts Legislature. One bill, HB181, on the licensing of behavior analysts is currently in committee (Joint Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure). The bill as originally submitted was based on ABAI's model licensing act. BABAT worked to have the bill revised to better meet the needs of consumers and applied behavior analysts. We are indebted to the work of Rep. John Scibak and Dr. Jerry Shook for producing a revised version of the bill that meets the BACB's endorsement. As revised, HB181 would serve the needs of consumers and applied behavior analysts without imposing unnecessary hardships for qualified behavior analysts or for the Commonwealth while protecting consumers. Therefore, the BABAT Board of Directors supports HB181 in its revised form and we will monitor this bill closely. If it should move out of committee and come up for a vote, we will alert the members of BABAT.

Autism insurance legislation is also being considered in Massachusetts. HB3809 as currently written would explicitly recognize BCBAs as qualified service providers to persons with ASDs. The bill has a good deal of support but a group commissioned to study the implications of this legislation is not scheduled to release their report until January 2011. Should this bill move forward, we will alert the members of BABAT.

-Bill Ahearn, Ph.D., BCBA-D
BABAT Board Member and Chair of Professional Practice