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Begin forwarded message:

From: Tim & Donna Pouliot <pouliottdam@myfairpoint.net>

Date: February 23, 2015 at 10:24:33 PM EST

To: Robert Laclair <rlaclair@leg.state.vt.us>, Paul Poirier <ppoirier@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Licensing Behavior Analysts

Dear Robert LaClair & Paul Poirier,

We are writing to support licensure for behavior analysts in Vermont. This will be an important step to ensure public safety for the reasons below:

We are Barre City residents and have a child with a disability in the public school system.

We recently have personally dealt with an issue with our child that the local designated mental health agency was using excessive physical restraints on our son. As parents we asked the school district to terminate WCMH School Based Support but we were told that the school district held the contract and we as parents could not terminate the contract which meant our son would be physically restrained at school.

Having a Licensed Board to go to with our complaint would have resolved this issue and would have been investigated immediately.

Instead this disabled child was physically restrained repeatedly, meanwhile his disability enabled him to express to us his parents what was happening at school. This manifested and caused undo anxiety, aggression and academic failure.

We as parents had no where to turn but to pull our son from school and have tutorial services provided and myself his mother taking him into school and staying with him for services for him to obtain his academics.

This led to The school district taking us the parents to mediation because we did not agree with the IEP as it was written with the School Based Behavior Support. The IEP does not list a provider but the service. In mediation the school district and us the parents agreed to hire Green Mountain Behavior Service to provide School Based support over seen by a BCBA. The new Behavior Support Plan was written without restraints but the reintegration plan back into school caused extreme anxiety that our son did not TRUST the new behavior services and was asking where the previous behavior interventionist was that had physically restrained him. The first week back into school with the new behavior service, our son bolted from school and was found by his father unexpectedly walking down South Main Street. The second week back into school his anxiety escalated while afraid to attend school our son anxiety turned into aggression and led to a mental health issues with our son.

He was then admitted to the Brattleboro Retreat for two weeks. If only we could have stopped the restraints over the years we would not have had to

endure an incredible amount of stress and upset within our family. We cannot express how difficult this has been. We strongly encourage you to consider licensing BCBA for this reason of safety for any child especially children with disabilities that might not be able to speak up or express what is happening to them.

Even being strong parents advocating and communicating with the school district and local mental health agency we could not stop this ABUSE.

We would welcome having a further conversation about this matter with you or other legislatures because the major reason to license BCBA would ensure public health, safety and welfare and regulate and protect the public from a BCBA that would conduct themselves in unprofessional conduct that cause undo harm.

Your sincere consideration of this manner is all we can ask to not have another child suffer what our child has.

We appreciate your time and consideration,

Tim & Donna Pouliot

20 White Street

Barre, VT

476-3395

Thank You!

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