



March 18, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H5635

Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H5635, which would change the name of "applied behavior assistant analyst" to "assistant applied behavior analyst" and makes several changes to provide consistency in the certification language for behavioral analysts.

My name is Margaret Holland McDuff, and I am CEO of FSRI. FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization delivering over 30 programs to support children, families and individuals across the state. We employ over 300 professionals including social workers, case managers, community health workers, peer support specialists, teachers, nurses, residential counselors, and more. FSRI has been serving Rhode Islanders for decades, including programming to support healthy child development, provide essential behavioral health services, and coordinate crisis intervention programs that help children and families thrive.

Applied behavioral analysts are a critical part of the service array for individuals, especially those with autism and other developmental disabilities, to improve their skills and behaviors. This bill proposes important changes to provide consistency in the certification language for these important professionals. FSRI supports these changes and this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5635, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Holland McDuff", written in a cursive style.

Margaret Holland McDuff
CEO