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Here are my talking points for support of the BCBA licensure

Alaska is training BCBA's but at this time it is difficult to keep them in Alaska due to issues related to billing for the services they provide. Many insurance companies require professionals to be licensed in order to bill for services. For this reason licensure is directly related to retention of our current numbers and provides incentive for additional professionals to enter the field. At this time we do not have enough BCBA's to fill the needs of our state.

As this relates to the autism insurance bill, if the issue of billing for services is not addressed children with autism will not receive the type of services they need at a level sufficient to make improvements.

Licensure will provide a means for BCBA's to bill for services and will have a direct impact on the availability of critical services for children and adults with autism.

There are several other important reasons for the licensure of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's).

Families who need this level of service are often desperate. With so few options available they will take what ever they can get even if the service is poor quality.

Rural communities with limited access to professionals are at risk of receiving services from practitioners who are not providing quality, safe, and/or ethical services. Because rural communities tend to be isolated from other professionals that would recognize these issues early, Behavior Analysts working in these communities, and who do not have adequate skills, may continue to provide inadequate or unsafe services. Licensure helps to address these concerns.

Families living in rural communities are often desperate for any type of service and will take whatever is available. This can lead them to accept low quality services, which can create more challenges than what may have existed before services. Licensure provides a foundation of minimum quality across the profession and in all communities.