

February 19, 2024

Anna Burke, MPP
Committee Administrator - Health and Human Services Finance & Policy, Senate DFL Caucus
2114 Minnesota Senate Building

SF 3923 - Joel Bakken Testimony, in support

Joel Bakken Professional Credentials

- Executive Director of Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals, PC for 25 years
- Licensed Psychologist in Minnesota
- Licensed Behavior Analyst in North Dakota

Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals

- Licensed Community Behavioral Health agency
- 320 staff
- Numerous professional staff, including psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors and behavior analysts
- All professionals are licensed EXCEPT for behavior analysts
- 37 states license behavior analysts
- All of Minnesota's neighboring states license behavior analysts

Current Risks

- Behavior analysts serve the most vulnerable populations in our state
- Behavior analysts sanctioned in border states can easily set up shop in Minnesota
- No path of recourse for citizens harmed by "bad" behavior analysts, only legal remedy

Benefits

- Consistent, professional management of behavior analysts
- Protection of the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens

