

Dear Vicki, Pamela, and Lisa,

As you are all aware, the South Dakota Association for Behavior Analysis board has been working to identify the level of support for the licensure rules as they currently stand.

Before delving into the results of the most recent survey, we want to express our gratitude for the hard work and time you have committed to making behavior analyst licensure and insurance reimbursement for ABA services in South Dakota a reality. There is a great need for it, and you all have endeavored to meet that need. Thank you for your efforts.

A few weeks ago, Pamela reached out to S<sup>D</sup>ABA asking for the association's position on the licensure rules. In an effort to seek this information, S<sup>D</sup>ABA sent out a brief survey earlier this month. After this survey was sent, however, additional information was revealed that was necessary for a complete and informed decision. We attempted to communicate questions regarding these new details to the Board of Social Work Examiners. As you know, their legal counsel's response was that answering our questions amounted to legal advice that went beyond that attorney's role. In light of the new details, we again sought input from our members regarding their support for the licensure rules, which culminated in the survey sent yesterday.

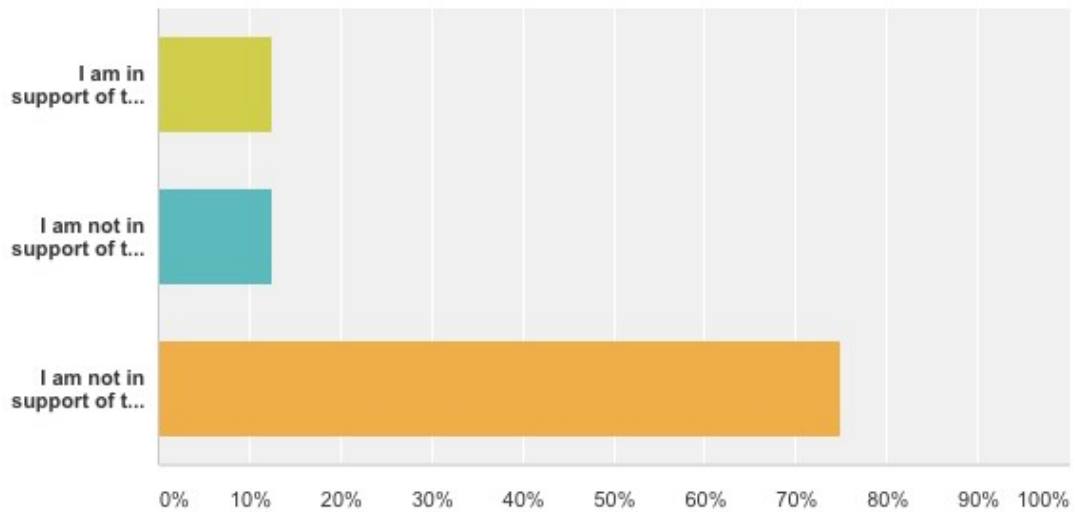
This survey distilled possible positions down to three:

1. I **am** in support of the licensure rules as they currently stand.
2. I am **not** in support of the licensure rules as they currently stand. I recommend the fees charged for behavior analyst licensure be reduced to match those paid by licensed social workers: \$170.00 for the application and \$170.00 for bi-annual licensure/renewal. I support all fees collected continuing to go into the Board of Social Work Examiner's general fund without any additional accounting.
3. I am **not** in support of the licensure rules as they currently stand. I support the current fee amounts remain as proposed, but I recommend an accounting system be developed to track the money paid by behavior analyst licensees. I recommend either a set percentage of that money or the difference between the behavior analyst fees and social worker fees be set aside to serve as a financial foundation for the establishment of an independent behavior analysis licensing board in the future.

We sent the survey to all 18 current members of S<sup>D</sup>ABA. Of those 18, 8 responded within the short window allowed. Here are the data collected:

## Please choose from the following:

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
<p>▼ I am in support of the licensure rules as they currently stand.</p>	12.50% 1
<p>▼ I am not in support of the licensure rules as they currently stand. I recommend the fees charged for behavior analysts licensure be reduced to match those paid by licensed social workers: \$170.00 for the application and \$170.00 for bi-annual licensure/renewal. I support all fees collected continuing to go into the Board of Social Work Examiner's general fund without any additional accounting.</p>	12.50% 1
<p>▼ I am not in support of the licensure rules as they currently stand. I support the current fee amounts remain as proposed, but I recommend an accounting system be developed to track the money paid by behavior analyst licensees. I recommend either a set percentage of that money or the difference between the behavior analyst fees and social worker fees be set aside to serve as a financial foundation for the establishment of an independent behavior analysis licensing board in the future.</p>	75.00% 6

These results speak loudly. Of those who responded, only one is in support of the rules as they currently stand. One believes the fees are simply too high. The vast majority (75% of respondents) is concerned that the fees would not in any way support a financial foundation for a future independent board. There is willingness to pay the fees at the established rate if those fees will, at least in part, contribute to an independent behavior analyst licensure board.

Based upon the results of the survey, SDABA is not in support of the rules as they currently stand. The issue is not the rules themselves or the high level of the fees, but the lack of provisions for building an independent board. Should this missing piece be added, support for the rules among SDABA members would likely increase significantly.

As we have discussed the relevant contingencies surrounding the rules and membership support, the board of SDABA identified two possible approaches that would build a financial foundation for an independent board. One possibility includes the Board of Social Work

Examiners tracking the difference of the amount of money paid by behavior analysts compared to that paid by social workers. The board would also track the amount of expenses attributed to licensed behavior analysts for costs beyond the normal administrative costs associated with licensure. When the time comes for behavior analysts to form their own independent licensing board, the unused monies paid by behavior analysts would provide a financial foundation for the new behavior analyst board. Another possibility includes essentially the same set of arrangements except the Board of Social Work Examiners would determine a set percentage of money, perhaps less than the difference between behavior analyst and social worker licensing rates, rather than the simple difference between the rates. Once again, remaining monies would be used to start the behavior analyst licensing board.

We hope the information contained above is helpful in your work tomorrow with the Board of Social Examiners. In spite of the lack of support for the current licensure rules, members of S<sup>D</sup>ABA are committed to reaching the point where ABA services can be provided to all those in need in South Dakota. If you have any questions needing clarification, please contact Jason Dybsetter. He has been appointed by the board of S<sup>D</sup>ABA to be the primary point of contact between the advisory committee and the association.

Thank you all.

Sincerely,  
Lacy Knutson, MS, BCBA  
S<sup>D</sup>ABA President

Jason Dybsetter, MA, BCBA  
S<sup>D</sup>ABA Director

Kathleen Cook, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
S<sup>D</sup>ABA Director

Amber Bruns, MS, BCBA  
S<sup>D</sup>ABA Secretary Treasurer