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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2008
To: The Regulated Community and Members of the Public
From: Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners
Re: HB 2275 – Licensure and Regulation of Behavior Analysts

On June 26, 2008, HB 2275 (Laws 2008, Chapter 288) was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Napolitano. The bill provides for the establishment of licensure and regulation of behavior analysts under the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners.

The licensure of behavioral analysts was originally contained in HB 2470, which was vetoed by Governor Napolitano. The original bill had established a separate regulatory board for the regulation of behavioral analysts, located within the existing administrative framework of another regulatory agency.

As a component of the FY 09 budget agreement, the licensure of behavioral analysts was a provision in the budget reconciliation bill (HB 2275) for health related matters. HB 2275 provides for the licensing requirements for behavior analysts and requires the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners to oversee such licensure and regulation, beginning on January 1, 2010.

The current bill contains errors and omissions the Board will be working to correct next legislative session. Specifically, the legislation did not provide an appropriation or any other source or means of financial resources required to regulate the behavior analysts. In the upcoming weeks and months, the Board will assume its new statutory responsibility of regulating behavior analysts. At the August 1-2, 2008 meeting, the Board voted to establish an ad hoc Implementation Committee comprised of Board members, members of the licensed psychologist community, and behavior analyst community. This Committee will research and develop the necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of licensure of behavior analysts through its recommendations to the Board.

Despite the lack of an appropriation in HB 2275, the Board will carry out its statutory responsibility as it relates to behavior analysts by establishing the appropriate administrative and regulatory structure that is imperative to the Board's responsibility to protect the public through effective and fair regulation of behavior analysts. Furthermore, the Board will be working closely with the Arizona Legislature during the next legislative session to secure the resources required to implement the licensure of behavioral analysts.

The Board looks forward to working with the public and members of the regulated community to make this a successful venture. Any questions regarding this matter can be answered by calling 602-542-8162.