

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 12, 2017, as "Behavior Analyst Appreciation  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Behavior analysis is a natural science, distinct  
4 from psychology, in which the interaction between environmental  
5 variables and behavior is studied, with that knowledge utilized  
6 to produce effective and efficient methods to teach and increase  
7 socially significant behaviors while reducing harmful behaviors;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, B. F. Skinner, a native of Pennsylvania, established  
10 behavior analysis as the experimental study of how learning  
11 occurs through the interaction between environmental variables  
12 and behavior over time; and

13 WHEREAS, The field of behavior analysis contains more than 80  
14 years of experimental research and more than 60 years of applied  
15 research demonstrating the relationships between environment and  
16 behavior as well as interventions that create socially  
17 significant improvements in an individual's life; and

1       WHEREAS, The field of behavior analysis has research evidence  
2 that shows effective and efficient behavior-change procedures  
3 can dramatically affect any area of human behavior, including  
4 mental health, education, health and wellness, weight loss  
5 programs, medication and medical treatment adherence,  
6 gerontology, business management, business leadership, training  
7 and supervision; and

8       WHEREAS, The field of behavior analysis has research evidence  
9 that shows effective and efficient behavior-change procedures  
10 for a wide range of mental health disorders; and

11       WHEREAS, Applied behavior analysis is widely recognized as  
12 the most effective treatment for children and adults with autism  
13 spectrum disorder and intellectual and developmental  
14 disabilities, with more than 50 years of scientific research  
15 establishing its effectiveness in producing socially significant  
16 behavior change; and

17       WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Surgeon  
18 General of the United States have endorsed the use of applied  
19 behavior analysis in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder;  
20 and

21       WHEREAS, Behavior analysts and behavior analytic  
22 professionals engage in experimental and applied research,  
23 service delivery of interventions based on research and serve as  
24 trainers, supervisors and leaders within organizations engaging  
25 in research and application of behavior-change procedures; and

26       WHEREAS, On a daily basis, behavior analysts oversee  
27 treatment programming for individuals and conduct assessment of  
28 skills and skill deficits, assessment of unsafe or unhealthy  
29 behavior, development of behavior-change procedures, training of  
30 staff in implementation of behavior-change procedures,

1 collection of behavior data to monitor the effectiveness of  
2 treatment programming, ongoing supervision of staff providing  
3 behavior-change programming and collaboration with other  
4 providers and individuals and their families to ensure treatment  
5 success; and

6 WHEREAS, There are currently numerous board certified  
7 behavior analysts and behavior analytic professionals in this  
8 Commonwealth, including 82 doctoral-level board certified  
9 behavior analysts, 1,017 board certified behavior analysts, 28  
10 board certified assistant behavior analysts and 229 registered  
11 behavior technicians; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June  
13 12, 2017, as "Behavior Analyst Appreciation Day" in  
14 Pennsylvania.

