

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Barbara Laman [lamanbarbara@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2009 3:33 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** Testimony

March 23, 2009

Education Committee  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford , CT 06106  
Attention: Sen. Thomas P. Gaffey and Rep. Andrew M. Fleischmann

Re: Raised S.B. No. 1142, Session Year 2009

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and the Education Committee members,

Please accept this letter as testimony for my opposition to S.B. No. 1142:  
*AN ACT CONCERNING RELIEF OF STATE MANDATES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS .*  
*My son, Brett Laman, has a birthday in November. He is currently 18 and will be attending Chapel Haven in the summer of 2009. This program is a life skills training program for young people with cognitive disabilities. He will learn life skills such as cooking, taking a bus, cleaning, doing laundry, managing money, etc. He desperately needs to learn these skills if he is to function independently. The program is 3 years and is paid for by the school system in which we reside ( Greenwich). If this bill were to pass we would not be able to keep him in the placement for the remainder of the school year because the tuition is prohibitive. He would likely return home, have no job and no transition services. He would be back to living at home and no more independent than when he left home at 18. The tuition at this school is \$63,000 per year; much higher than a college tuition. Please do not allow this bill to go through! We have already paid the equivalent of a college education for him with all of his therapies (mainly ABA which is not funded by insurance) and we are not in a financial position to take this on. Please consider that families like ours with children who have significant handicaps are very financially burdened with the cost of caring for our loved ones.*

*Sincerely,*  
*Barbara Laman*  
*60 Greenwich Hills Drive*  
*Greenwich, CT 06831*

3/23/2009