

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. We are Stuart Brown, former Chair of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities; and Jane Thierfeld Brown, Co-Director of College Autism Spectrum and author of the book, "Students with Aspergers: A Guide for College Professions." We are also the parents of a 17 year old son, Max, who has Fragile X Syndrome.

The impact of our son's disability has had far-reaching effects within our family. Very basic outings such as meals in a restaurant, family vacations, or trips to the store are not possible with a family member with Fragile X Syndrome. Even something as simple as a family dinner at home is fraught with stress, outbursts and tantrums. Fragile X impacts countless Connecticut families who struggle day-to-day with everything from such simple tasks as teeth brushing to short errands in the car.

Scientific research has produced new hope for treatments of Fragile X and its symptoms. This will help our children and families live more productive and independent lives.

By designating a Fragile X Day in September 2009 awareness will be raised and support created within Connecticut. This support and awareness is essential for households struggling with this life changing disorder. Thank you.

Jane and Stuart Brown

50 Griswold Drive

West Hartford, CT