

Cynthia & Joseph Mancini
5 Crystal Brook Rd.
Wolcott, CT 06716

March 12, 2009

Education Committee
Room 3100
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill #6666, Section 7

Attn: Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair

Dear Sirs:

I, Cynthia Mancini of 5 Crystal Brook Rd. in Wolcott, Connecticut, am writing to you in support of Raised Bill #6666, Section 7. I support this bill because it is necessary to ensure that children with autism receive a free and appropriate education implemented by qualified personal. Currently, regular education teachers are required to be certified. However, children with autism most of who need an Applied Behavior Analysis method of teaching are having programs implemented by behaviorist that do not hold proper certification. In many districts throughout the state, the individuals that proclaim to be behaviorist have not received their certification. Fortunately, in my district, my daughter currently has a program that is run by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

As a parent of a child with autism, I ask that my district as well as all districts in Connecticut be required to have certified behaviorists teach our children. We have great safeguards in place for consumers of a wide variety of services, including some seemingly routine professions like hair stylists and backhoe operators, yet those working with some of our most disabled students are not monitored in any way. We are hoping you will join our effort to protect the health and well being of the children we cherish, the parents who love them, and the school districts who have to pay the bill.

Regards,



Cynthia Mancini