

Dear Representatives,

I am writing this letter in response to your proposed legislation Bill 6666 Section 7. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctoral level, I feel this Bill is very important to help address the learning and behavioral needs of the Autistic child. While I have been a consultant to schools for children with disabilities and/or Autism for many years, I have been able to observe the level of programs which are available within these schools. This Bill would require oversight of programming by behavior analysts which could help to create a more uniform and appropriate educational services in Connecticut for all children with Autism. Unfortunately, what exists among some districts for children with Autism is a total disregard of the level of experience, education and training needed of the persons who should and are working with the child. One must be aware of the fact that behavior analysts are trained to evaluate research to help guide their decisions in their work. It is important to note, that this is critical in the education of the child with Autism as the child cannot make continued progress unless their educators are dynamic in pursuing up-to-date evidence based practices. As a society, in the end we will be paying more in social services for supporting adults with Autism if we don't address their learning and behavioral needs when they are young through appropriate educational services by trained behavior analysts.

In addition, I have noticed that you have only addressed public schools in this Bill. Private schools for disabled children also should be required to have behavior analysts on staff. One might assume that these schools are receiving federal and state monies from school districts for the education of the child with Autism. This Bill should address all children with Autism within the state of Connecticut so that they can reach their potential under the guidance of trained behavior analysts.

Thank you in advance for considering my remarks.

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