

March 12, 2009

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair  
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair  
Education Committee  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

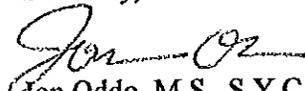
Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support in passing Bill 6666 section 7. This bill will require the services of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst on the team of specialists who work with children with autism spectrum disorders as designated on an Individualized Education Plan.

While working under three certifications as supported by the Connecticut State Department of Education, I have worked as the Principal of a private special education school for children with autism for almost four years now. I have experienced first hand of the great need for the direction and planning of quality comprehensive services to children with such a diverse disability. It is mandated by the federal law, IDEA 2004, that special education be based upon strategies that have been validated by peer-reviewed research, and to date, the only intervention that has empirical evidence that is effective are those instructional strategies based upon Applied Behavior Analysis. Requiring the position of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst on the team providing services to children with autism is a decision that will benefit not only the children and their families, but all other members of the team.

Thank you for your consideration of passing Bill 6666, section 7.

Sincerely,



Jon Oddo, M.S., S.Y.C., Principal/Special Education Director  
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