

Patrick & Maria Murphy
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March 16, 2009

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

**Regarding: Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7
An act requiring School Districts to utilized Board Certified
Behavior Analysts when and individual education plan
includes applied behavior analytic services as part of a
students special education**

Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Maria Murphy. I currently reside in Norwalk, CT. I am a parent of a child with autism and in **STRONG** 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, certified individuals who understand how to best assist them.

First, I would like to thank the Committee for inviting the public to speak about how important this Bill is to the children, parents, and all employees of the school system with in this state.

My child was diagnosed with Autism from Boston's Children's Hospital in June of 2005 when she was 2 years old.

When she was 3 she was eligible to enter the Norwalk Public School System.

In 2006, when we entered Norwalk Public School, they hired a consultant who was NOT a certified behavior analyst form the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (Her name = Mrs. Sheila Flannigan of Benhaven's Learning Network.)

Due to this inappropriate educational method, we unilaterally placed our child at the CT Center for Childhood Development ("CCCD"). We looked into other schools specializing in Autism but because of their stellar reputation, continuing education in ABA practices, & the requirement for a certified staff, we believed they were the most appropriate institution to assist our child. At CCCD she excelled in all areas of education, with data to back this up.

Once our child completed a year at this school, it was decided that she would benefit with the social interaction of typical children.

In 2007, we re-entered the Norwalk Public School, and YET AGAIN they hired a consultant who was NOT a certified behavior analyst from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (His name = Mr. John Burke of Branches of Hope (Formerly known as The Hope Center)).

In that same year the Norwalk Public School hired Ms. Stacy Lore of Spectrum Kids, LLC. Not only was Ms. Lore NOT a certified behavior analyst from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, she also did not hold a Master's Degree from New York University or St. John's University or a Ph.D. from New York University as specified on her resume.

The reoccurring irresponsibility of the Norwalk Public School System is outrageous, unethical, and expensive.

I know many parents in many districts who have similar stories to ours.

Section 7 of Bill 6666 WILL set an appropriate standard of education for these children.

We hope you will join our effort to protect the health and well being of these children.

The constituents, parents, tax payers of this state URGE you to PASS Section 7 of Bill 6666.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Maria Murphy

Svetlana Rodina-Brien

From: Maria.lacontino-Murphy@ubs.com
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2008 3:17 PM
To: kimhillgraham@sbcglobal.net; jtjcvco@optonline.net; margaret.bustell@tns-global.com; mkbustell@yahoo.com; nlssh@sbcglobal.net; Supukrish@yahoo.com; srodina-brien@pdcltd.com
Cc: letso@cccdinc.org
Subject: newsweek article today cnn

Today's Newsweek - Friday November 7, 2008

<http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/labnotes/archive/2008/11/06/harbingers-of-autism.aspx>

Harbingers of Autism

Sharon Begley

The tragedy of autism is compounded by one fact that makes desperate parents wish they could turn back the hands of time: symptoms of the neurodevelopmental disorder typically show up when a child is 2 or 3 or even older, but by then it may be too late to prevent or reverse whatever glitches in brain development (still pretty much a mystery) underlie the disease. It is even on the late side for getting a child the behavioral interventions and special education that might mitigate some of the worst symptoms.

If scientists at the M.I.N.D. Institute of the University of California, Davis, are right, however, there may be a reliable warning sign of autism much earlier: how a child plays with his or her toys at the tender age of 12 months. In particular, scientists led by Sally Ozonoff will report in the journal Autism (it's the October issue, but not out yet; keep checking the web site), children who were later diagnosed with autism were more likely to spin, repetitively rotate, stare at and look out of the corners of their eyes at toys such as a rattle.

