

March 13, 2009

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

Regarding Bill #6666, Section 7

To the Education Committee and the co-chairs,

I am currently a certified special education teacher, working in Connecticut at a school which services children with Autism. I strongly support this bill which will require school districts to utilize Board Certified Behavior Analysts when an IEP includes applied behavior analytic services.

I have had over 5 years of experience working with families who have children with Autism. I have been lucky enough to be able to teach this population of children in school, work as an outreach instructor and care for children of various ages in their homes. Throughout my experiences, both the families I work for and I have come in contact with various people working as behavior analysts. Because I am a special education teacher working in a school with Board Certified Behavior Analysts, I have had the positive experience of being able to trust what they say or recommend and use the strategies and information they give me knowing it came from people educated in this field.

The parents from the families I know have had different experiences depending on who you ask. Unfortunately there are people working as behavior analysts who are not educated to the extent necessary to make important decisions about these children. They do not have the amount of training necessary to make informed, researched, decisions which end up greatly impacting the lives of these children. I feel it is unfair to put a parent in the position of thinking their child is under the close supervision of the most qualified people, knowing most of our parents do not have the resources or information necessary to learn about the qualifications of these people claiming to know how to help their children. I think it is extremely important to give parents the specific services, which by law it is their right to have.

Sincerely,

Tracy Horrocks
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