

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1105

Please be advised that I am a parent of a child with autism as well as a member of the Board of Education in my town.

Last year the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law that would ensure that those providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in public schools or at public expense would have the training and a credential necessary to do so. This year, the State Department of Education has proposed changes to this legislation that would enable anyone one who is certified in any other area, but who do not have any training in ABA whatsoever to provide these critical services. I oppose SB 1105. SB 1105 is detrimental to children with autism and there ability to obtain proper services by licensed and trained individuals

The professional identified in the language of SB 1105 ARE NOT qualified to provide these services. In addition, there are already is a shortfall in SLPs, special education teachers and psychologist to meet CT's current educational need so adding additional responsibilities to these professionals will not meaningfully increase the number of providers. Furthermore, without proper service delivery students with autisms will not learn but can even regress and cause increase costs and later treatment needs for lifelong care.

Psychologists, speech therapists, and special education teachers are not usually trained to provide ABA services. If they are, then the current law would already enable them to provide ABA services.

Furthermore, the phrase "Including but not limited to" in the bill means that anyone with any type of credential may be designated to provide these service. This is not fair for our children who suffer from this disorder.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cynthia Mancini