

Senators,

As the parent of a child in the Autism Spectrum, I was thrilled Last year when 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 in SB 1105 that would enable anyone one who is certified in any other area, but who do not have any training whatsoever to provide these critical services.

I have several concerns about this new proposal:

- a.) the professionals identified in the language are not qualified to provide these services;
- b.) there are already not enough SLP's, special education teachers and psychologists to meet CT's current educational needs so adding additional responsibilities to these professions will not meaningfully increase the number of providers;
- c.) without proper service delivery students with autism not only will not learn but can regress causing the cost of later treatment and livelong care to increase;
- d.) supervision and direction by a designated administrator will add to the cost of providing services while decreasing the ability of qualified personnel to do their jobs.

Connecticut has already seen children's lives ruined and an allegedly certified analyst put in jail for the damage done to students under her purview, and the costs to districts that contracted her services in Connecticut and New York. I hope you will stand firm against the changes proposed in this latest bill and insist Connecticut settles for nothing less than legislation that provides for certified and licensed ABAs.

Thank you,

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John Voket  
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