



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE F. CAFERO, JR.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN LEADER

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 4200
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
FAX: (860) 240-0184

Good Morning Senate Chair Stillman and House Chair Ritter, Ranking Members Welch and Perillo and Members of the Public Health Committee. I am here today to testify in support of **Proposed Bill Number 799: An Act Concerning Misrepresentation as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.**

This legislation seeks to make it a crime in Connecticut for a person to misrepresent his or her credentials as a board certified behavior analyst, with enhanced penalties if such person provides client services based upon this misrepresentation.

Unfortunately, there are persons in our communities who seek to take financial advantage of vulnerable families who are seeking therapy for autism. We saw this happen recently in the Norwalk and Weston school systems, when Stacy Lore produced false credentials to obtain employment as an autism therapist. Her act of deceit not only cost schools and families large amounts of money, she also broke the trust of families who look to professionals to guide them through difficult times and to provide critical treatment for their children.

Autism spectrum disorder affects thousands of Connecticut families. It is imperative that we protect these families by making it a crime to treat clients without the proper credentials and training. Ideally, with this legislation, we can prevent persons like Stacy Lore from taking advantage of families in the future.

I urge the Public Health Committee to pass Proposed Bill Number 799 to protect families battling with autism spectrum disorder.