



Thank you to Senators Looney and Duff, Representative Cafero for the introduction of Senate Bill 799. You have taken a powerful stand for our families with the introduction of this bill and we are grateful for your leadership in protecting some of the states most vulnerable people; children with disabilities such as autism.

Just as any family living with a medical disorder would do, we rely on the advice of doctors, therapists and educators to help guide us towards the BEST, most appropriate, most effective services for our children. Unfortunately, that also often leaves our families vulnerable. Because we are so determined, often desperate, to help our children we can be criminal targets and fall prey to people who claim to be able to HELP when in reality, they are only looking to profit on our children's disability.

Such criminal acts, with criminal intent deserve the punishment due a criminal.

Senate Bill 799 would protect families from predators only seeking profit without credentials. It would punish criminals who prey on trusting families who only seek the best for their children.

In the same way someone posing as a speech or occupational therapist would be held accountable for their actions by law, so should a person willingly misrepresenting himself as a board certified behavior analyst.

I am again proud of Connecticut for leading the way to protecting our families and children, being only the second state in the country to act on making the impersonation of a BCBA a criminal act. As a community, we are grateful that legislators listened to our families and took action on our behalf.

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