

Dear Mr. Calabrese-

I am writing to you today in opposition to SB 1105. This legislation would allow professionals not specifically certified to render services in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapies, to go beyond their area of expertise and engage in administering these critical services to children in public school systems. It should be noted that 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, social workers 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 lifelong care to increase; and, 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.

In my current position as a special education advocate, I frequently work with families whose lives have been touched by autism. Having proper care for their children is vital to the child's overall development and eventual independence. Allowing professionals who are not properly trained to work with these children is certainly not the correct response for these children and their families, nor is it the correct measure for the education committee to render.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information.

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