

1105

To the Education Committee:

It has been brought to my attention that there are proposed changes to the current legislation governing the credentials necessary to practice Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in our state's school environments. I am writing to state my clear opposition to "SB 1105" that would diminish the criteria which is paramount in the treatment and education of those with autism. The proposal ultimately denies both the student (school-aged child with autism) and the instructor (therapist, psychologist, speech language pathologist, etc) the tools which are of vital importance. In such a critical field as autism, proper training and education cannot be sacrificed. The long term effects of such actions would very likely include student regression due to improper or unskilled approaches by the "certified" instructor. Simply put, the **professionals identified in this proposal are not qualified to provide these services.**

Having had tremendous exposure to an autism-based educational system and having witnessed firsthand the significant impact of proper education, I can see very clearly the needs of the students and the necessity of properly certified educators. It is my sincere hope that those individuals reading this message can see this proposal's faults as clearly as I can.

Thank you for your consideration,

Martin Coleman

Maintenance Supervisor of the Connecticut Center for Child Development

19 Mary Street

East Haven, CT 06513

(203) 469-8590