

Dear Education Committee,

I am the father of a daughter with Autism and would like to oppose SB 1105 because I understand the importance of ABA services when conducted by qualified professionals.

Key Points:

- ABA professionals are required to go through extensive study and hands on training and have specific expertise in this field - the professionals identified in the SB 110 language are not qualified to provide ABA services
- Psychologists, speech therapists, and special education teachers are not usually trained to provide ABA services. If they are, then the current law would already enable them to provide ABA services. As a parallelism, this would be like allowing a Psychologist, Speech Therapist or special education teachers to now conduct Physical therapy even though they were not trained in this field
- 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
- 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
- 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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Alex T Crawford
West Hartford, CT