



More Than 10 Years of Families Helping Families

CT FEAT

PO Box 370352
West Hartford, CT
06137-0352

860-571-3888

March 6, 2011

Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

www.ctfeat.org

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1105

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

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Dear Members of the Education Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut Families for Effective Autism Treatment (CT FEAT) Board of Directors I am writing in opposition to SB 1105. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a powerful method of teaching children with autism, but it must be implemented carefully by someone with knowledge and experience in Applied Behavior Analysis. This bill would allow unqualified individuals to provide ABA in our public schools.

On the CT FEAT Parent Discussion List, we often hear of children who have learned not only academic skills but also social and independence skills through their school's ABA program overseen by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). By learning these skills at an early age, these children reduce the cost to the school system and society for their care over their lifespan.

Unfortunately, parents also share their experiences where their children were in so-called ABA programs that did not have properly trained individuals providing the instruction and supervising the program. Parents describe the time and effort (often over years) necessary to undo the harm caring, but unqualified, personnel have inflicted on their children.

Board Certified Behavior Analysts must take additional classes beyond their master's degree and then work with children with autism for a full year before getting their certification. While speech therapists and special education teachers have many valuable skills and knowledge, they do not have the extensive training a quality Applied Behavior Analysis program requires.

Please protect the right to a quality education for all of our children. Vote no on SB 1105.

Sincerely,

Beth Lambert

Beth Lambert, President