

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

We're strongly in opposition to SB 1105.

We are the parents of the autistic boy (8 y.o.) whose life was directly affected by a person who claimed to have Ph.D., BCBA, and two Masters' degrees. In reality she had just gotten her G.E.D. We are sure that by now you already know that we are talking about Stacy Lore.

One and a half years of our son's development were lost. Taxpayers' monies were wasted. Furthermore, our son Daniel developed a serious new behavioral problem while in Lore's care and Lore's ignorance of the problem nearly cost Daniel his life (he nearly got hit and killed by a car - we filed a police report with the Westport police). Daniel became a "bolter," who sprinted away from us disregarding traffic, during his bolting episodes. Daniel's deficits were not addressed properly and most of the time they were ignored by Ms. Lore. One of examples of Stacy's negligence is her recommendations to put our son into the typical kindergarten without any professional support because the peers would laugh at the fact that Daniel had a paraprofessional. As a result of her recommendations peers did laugh at Daniel only when he was struggling to say a full sentence or to control his behavior. After Daniel was reevaluated by a certified professional, the recommendations were to assign a full-time therapist during the school day and the home assistance. Due to Ms. Lore's ignorance and manipulateness the gap between Daniel and neuro-typical peers increased.

Below is an excerpt from our email to Ms. Lore. We were asking her to help our son.

*"Yesterday we had unpleasant experience. We took Daniel to McDonalds to play on their playground. There were a couple of kids - 8-9 y.o. Daniel wanted to play with them, so he got on his knees and pretended that he was a tiger. The kids ran to their mother screaming that there was a freak there. They were humiliating Daniel. Their mother did not stop them. Anyway, it was very painful. Can we teach Daniel to engage into a conversation with kids first? And if they do not want to play with him, he will not be upset and just move on."*

Ms. Lore has never replied to us. She just ignored our outcry as she did with a lot of them.

In addition to all of the above:

- a) professionals identified in the language are not qualified to provide these services;
- b.) 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;
- 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;
- 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.

Specifically, the proposed language states that ABA providers of "including, but not limited to, persons employed as psychologists, speech therapists and positions requiring certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in special education,"

Psychologists, speech therapists, and special education teachers are not trained to provide ABA services.

KNOWING ALL THESE FACTS, WOULD YOU SEND A PLUMBER TO FIX YOUR COMPUTER? THAT IS CORRECT. THAT IS HOW BIG IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THERAPISTS WHO WERE TRAINED IN ABA AND WHO WERE NOT.

Thank you for your consideration in advance!

*Sincerely,*

*Svetlana Rodina-Brien and Raymond Brien  
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