

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1105

My name is Heather Ventrella Gagliardo and I live in Fairfield, CT (2225 Mill Plain Rd). I am a professional with over 10 years of experience working with children with autism in private, home, community, and public education settings. In addition, I have a family member who has autism.

I oppose Bill 1105. This bill, if approved, would be detrimental to children with autism based on the following: (1) the professionals identified in the language are not qualified to provide the specified services, (2) currently there are not enough special education teachers, speech language pathologists, and psychologists within the education system, adding additional responsibilities to these professionals will be effect their job performance and will not increase the number of providers, (3) without proper service delivery to students with autism, students will not learn and will will most likely loose skills already acquired, causing the cost of additional treatment and lifelong care to increase, (4) supervision and direction by a designated administrator will add to the cost of providing services while decreasing the ability of qualified professionals to do thier job.

Thank you,
Heather Ventrella Gagliardo, BCaBA

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