



SENATOR BOB DUFF

Norwalk & Darien

Assistant Majority Leader

Chair

Banks

Vice Chair

Transportation • Energy & Technology

Member

Appropriations

Appropriations Subcommittee Chair

Results-Based Accountability

Conservation & Development

Testimony by Senator Bob Duff
PROPOSED BILL 799, AN ACT CONCERNING
MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD-CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST
February 23, 2011

To: The Hon. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chair, The Hon. Betsy Ritter, Co-Chair, The Hon. Gayle Slossberg, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Christopher Liddy, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Jason Welch, Ranking Member, The Hon. Jason Perillo, Ranking member, and members of the Public Health Committee.

I want to thank the Committee for hearing PROPOSED BILL 799, AN ACT CONCERNING MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST.

In Norwalk a case arose in which a woman provided services to the Norwalk Public School system as a consultant from 2007 to 2008, charging more than \$150,000 in taxpayer funds. She was found guilty of forging credentials to treat autistic children and grand larceny. This is about more than the cost of her fraud to the taxpayers, it is about our children. Intense therapy and education is vital to the early development of autistic children, as many studies have shown, and the children she worked with will never get this important time back.

Two years ago, Connecticut became one of the first states to mandate comprehensive insurance for autism disorders. Last year, the Assembly mandated that school districts regulate the administration and supervision of services given to autistic children. This bill makes it a crime to represent one's self as a Certified Autism Behavior Analyst without the proper credentials, bringing it in line with penalties for misrepresenting as a speech, occupational, or physical therapist. This bill will give important protections to our most vulnerable children, preventing setbacks during a vital time in their development.

I urge the Committee to give this bill every consideration possible.