

To: The Public Health Committee

Re: HB No. 5534

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

I writing concerning a public hearing to be held Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 1D of the LOB. This is an electronic testimony that I would like addressed at the meeting.

Our son was Diagnosed with Fragile X Syndrome and also recently diagnosed with Autism. We were able obtain services through Birth to Three, which was an excellent program. But as our son continues to develop and grow, the services began to dwindle. I have been working with a social worker from the Town of Groton, CT, to obtain services since October 2012, and we are still unable to receive services that we desperately need for our four- year- old son.

We have applied for Child First in October 2013, and IICAPS (Intensive Child + Adolescent Psychiatric Services) in December 2013, and we were turned down for both services due to "Community Slots" being eliminated.

In November 2013 I received a request from DDS to supply them with additional information to apply for **Autism Spectrum Services**. I supplied all the medical history, Dr documentation, proof of residence and everything necessary. This was all submitted in early march of this year 2014.

I called to check on the status of the application and received a return phone call.

I spoke with Emma Rosado on 3/14/2014 and she stated that **there is such a long waiting for children with Autism that it may take six to eighth years for services.**

This is unacceptable. Even though I have been sent a list of other services, it appears they are unobtainable for various reasons, e.g. Insurance, waiting list , or lack of Community Slots or support.

This is unacceptable, my child will continue to grow and develop patterns of behavior and he needs help now. There are too many dead end roads. Can we please be heard and can we please get help for our child? **It is too much to ask a parent to wait 6-8 years for "official" services.**

Thank you for taking our child's need and lack of community help into consideration.

Elvis Erazo

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