

March 18, 2014

Dear Legislation,

My name is Aimee Haray, I am a BCBA and work for a private school that services children and their families with autism. I am writing in reference to the proposed HB 5588. The two proposed sections would greatly improve the quality of life for families and their children with autism. In the state of Connecticut families who are caring for severely impacted children have little to no resources to support the

needs of their children. I have worked with families that are dealing with their children hurting themselves, hurting others and engaging in property destruction within the home. Currently, if they call to request assistance they are directed to call 911 and have the children transported to the hospital. Once they get to the hospital they are told we cannot care for this child he/she is going to be discharged.

They are sent back home to where the environment is not safe for the child and/or family members due to the lack of support services. Since the state of CT is no longer granting out of state placements in appropriate facilities, it is time that the state of CT provide in state services for these families and their children.

The proposed pilot program with behavior analytic strategies and clinical services will give these individuals the increased opportunity to decrease inappropriate behaviors and increase appropriate behaviors through the consistency across a 24 hour day. For these families and individuals that are so severely impacted with the autism spectrum disorder it is crucial that they have experienced clinicians working with them. I urge you to pass HB 5588 to increase the quality of life for the families and individuals that are severely impacted by the autism spectrum disorder.

Thank-you,

Aimee Haray, M.S., BCBA

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