

My name is Laura Howk, I live in Middletown, Connecticut and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. I support HB 5558 because individuals with autism don't ever grow out of their disability, and therefore do not stop needing services once they reach a certain age. In addition, severe behaviors are one of the hallmarks of autism spectrum disorders, and one area that I personally work closely with. Through applied behavior analysis there is years of documented research and repeated successes with treating and reducing these behaviors. It is crucial that our state allocate the resources necessary to provide assistance to these individuals, their families and their communities.

Thank you for your time,

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