

My name is Lisa Heslin , and I just moved from Clinton to Orange , Connecticut. I writing this because I am very concerned for the future of my son. My son Dylan has an autism spectrum disorder that was diagnosed at the age of 3. Connecticut does not provide services for adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorders but do not have mental retardation and Dylan is currently 22 years old and receives no services other than SSI. I am writing to you about Bill No HB5558 which would provide services so my son can successfully live independently and become a productive member of his community. Dylan can live and work in the community as a productive member of society but not without the appropriate supports. We are currently struggling to assist him with his independent living but we need help. This bill will allow for Dylan to access these supports and live up to his fullest potential.

We have been told since he was 7 years old that he did not qualify for any services from the state other because his IQ was above 70. My son is intelligent and can work, go to school and live independently. We want to be assured that his future will be successful but fear that without us his future is uncertain. He spent the last two years at Chapel Haven and is currently living in the area of Chapel Haven with a roommate and solely relies upon me to help him. He still has no job and needs assistance with a variety of things. I am hopeful that the state of Connecticut will not forget this growing population of adults that with minimal support can become productive community members.

Thank You.

Lisa Heslin