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**I am writing in support of the proposed bill HB 5558. *My son who is now 6 has Autism.*** I can personally attest to the fact that without ABA services for him he would not have made the progress he has in that past year and a half. If you know anything at all about ABA therapy you know it is the only proven therapy that helps those affected by ASD. In addition finding an ABA provider and one who takes insurance is difficult. I was lucky that I have found one provider. However now that I have lost my job and will be without coverage on an employee plan, I may have to place my son on the CT Husky program which will not cover him for ABA services with my provider.

When my son was diagnosed his then pre-school decided to tell about this. They apparently "diagnosed" him on their own. It made me furious they could make such a determination without being medical professionals. I found him a developmental pediatrician who confirmed the diagnosis as ASD for him. Without batting an eye and a very cold bedside manner she simply said "I'm sorry. How do you feel about him about now?"> Her statement took me aback I must say, but my response was just as simple, "the same way I did before speaking with you" and then my mind started to go in one direction. That direction was how to get him the help he needed and the intervention. ABA therapy was the first step.

It is now your turn to move forward and take steps. I urge you as a parent and on behalf of all parents and ABA therapists to support this bill. The faces of Autism are not all children and one day they will no longer be but will still have ASD. The faces of Autism are also of parents, family, teachers, ABA & BCBA therapists, they are social group directors, counselors, friends, and a host of others you don't get to see.

It's time to see them all. To see those and serve those in a growing population of society and to its time to help and do a better job in getting them served. My son, and others like him are counting on [you.to](http://you.to) support this this bill.

Thank You

Sincerely;

*Thomas Greco*

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