

I am a parent of an adult child with Autism. We receive services through DDS. The services consist of 11 hours a week for speech therapy, life, and social skills. We also receive employment services through BRS. These services are vital for maintaining and expanding our son's capabilities and quality of life.

The speech therapy, life, and social skill training are for the most part affective and delivered in a reasonably efficient manner. The employment services are very ineffective and very poorly executed. The BRS resource is poorly staffed, poorly managed, and uses outdated IT systems. Most of the direct services are outsourced to third party agencies who have been ineffective locating any type of suitable employment during the last 4 years. My son is high functioning and physically capable of working in many environments however the only employment opportunities he has had over the last 4 years we have identified.

Our son is capable of taking care of himself with some supervision. He lives at home with us and will likely remain with us because there are no housing options in our area.

As I have not seen bill HB5558 I am not sure if it addresses the effectiveness of the existing services however it should. I clearly support providing additional support to those with autism however the State of CT needs to be accountable for the effective the management of these programs.

Timothy J. Petit
Parent of an adult child with autism
508 Jerome Ave
Bristol Ct, 06010