

ROSANNE AND ROBERT SHEA  
WEST HARTFORD, CT

House Bill 5558  
Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing: 3/19/14

Dear Public Health Committee friends:

On behalf of our 18-year-old son Jeremiah and all of God's children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, we are writing to strongly support House Bill 5558 – *Services for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders*.

Our families in the Autism Community are grateful that the Legislature and the Malloy Administration – working through the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Social Services – are seeking to expand services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Section 1 of House Bill 5558 is a fantastic proposal!

We are also grateful for the proposal in Section 2, which establishes a *Pilot* program for our family members and friends who have very high levels of service needs to receive high-quality care from experienced and qualified providers here in Connecticut. The *Pilot* would provide for necessary intensive services in a community/group home setting – which is the best situation for everyone.

We understand that the goals of this *Pilot* should be to take the individuals off of the DDS emergency/waiting list. Tremendous idea!! We need to continue the good work that the Legislature and the Malloy Administration have been doing to fight to provide behavioral services and supports here in Connecticut.

This approach will be cost effective and provide high-quality services to these individuals here at home in Connecticut.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5888.