

To the Finance Committee:

First, let me thank you for the service that you give to the State of Connecticut and for all the time you have dedicated to helping our citizens.

I am the father of a child on the spectrum as well as having ADHD (Combined Type). He is awesome and we love him but he presents us with challenges. We have had to have him outplaced in private schools that specialize in working with children like him on two occasions (first at Eagle Hill in Southport for Elementary School and now at Winston Prep in Norwalk for Middle/High School). This was because he could not get the education and support that he needs in the public schools. We have also had to avail ourselves of the services of ABA therapists, Social Skills groups, therapists, etc. We anticipate that the need to provide our son with outside services will continue throughout his life.

That is why we feel that the passage of HB 7038 is so important to families like ours and others who may not be as fortunate as us. HB 7038 would allow persons with disabilities to create tax-free "ABLE" savings accounts to pay for disability-related expenses like education, health care, transportation, housing, employment training and support, and personal support services. I would encourage you to please vote in favor of Bill 7038 so that it may go on toward passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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M. Jeffry Spahr, Esq.