

TESTIMONY OF ANNA REISNER
IN SUPPORT OF SB 842, AN ACT CONCERNING FOSTER CHILDREN AND THE
DESIGNATION OF SURROGATE PARENTS AND HB 5658, AN ACT CONCERNING
EDUCATIONAL SURROGATES, THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND
CHILDREN REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Committee on Children
February 17, 2015

Submitted by Anna Reisner

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Distinguished Members of the Committee on Children:

I submit this testimony **in support of SB 842 and HB 5658.**

Good afternoon Senator Bartolomeo and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Children. My name is Anna Reisner of West Haven, CT. It is my honor and privilege to speak to you today to describe the essential supports that I continue to receive from my surrogate parent.

Currently, I reside in a DMHAS supported and semi-supervised apartment, am a client of DCF and have never been in the juvenile justice system. I do have an IEP and was assigned a surrogate, Anthony Carvallaro, who has been a significant support to insure that I received the proper educational programming.

Tony has been my surrogate for about four years and supported me in many ways. For example, when I was at High Roads School in Wallingford, he made sure that I had appropriate testing that supported a change of placement to the program where I currently attend to receive academic and transition services. My reading has improved significantly. Last year my reading skills advanced three years. I was able to improve my very weak math skills in order to pass an entrance test to enroll in college.

He comes to my school to talk about my future planning and to insure that my program is meeting my needs. I always feel that I can call him if I have concerns about school, and he always gets back to me. In fact, when I turned 18, I signed consent for him to continue in his role. I can't stress enough, how his support of my education has resulted in my ability to go to college, become a nurse, and to live on my own without government assistance in the future.

For students in the juvenile justice system who have not reached their educational potential due to the problems that they face, a consistent surrogate parent available to manage their education and insure that they receive the significant academic support is what they need. As a student with special education needs, the consistent support of my surrogate, Tony, has been a life saver. My future looks much brighter due to his unwavering support.

Include your name, signature, and date.

Anna Reisner
Anna Reiser

2/17/15
Date