

PA 11-228

SB0799

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
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9635 – 9973**

pt/tj/lxe/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

505
June 8, 2011

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Just give me a moment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You have a moment, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I would object to the Consent Calendar having placed upon it Calendar 565, which is Senate Bill 1083, and Calendar 524, which is Senate Bill 1153. Off Consent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

So ordered.

Mr. Clerk, do we have those off Consent?

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 491.

THE CLERK:

On page 18, Calendar 491, Senate Bill Number 799,
AN ACT CONCERNING MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD
CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST. Favorable report of the
Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

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Representative Ritter of the 38th, you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question is acceptance and passage in concurrence with the Senate. Please proceed.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 6118. I ask that the Clerk please call that amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 6118.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6118, Senate "A" offered by Senators Looney, Gerratana, Duff and Representative Cafero.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative, please proceed.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker this amendment adds clarity to the underlying bill and I

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move acceptance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question is on adoption of the amendment.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Excuse me, I move for adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

(Inaudible). Question is adoption. Further on?
If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor,
please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed? The Ayes have it. Senate "A" is
adopted.

Further on the bill as amended? Representative
Ritter.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move this item be placed on
the Consent Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Motion before Chamber is to add this item to
Consent. Do I see objection? Hearing none, so
ordered.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 535,

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This represents our first Consent Calendar of the evening and I move its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Will the Clerk please read through the numbers on the Consent Calendar for the Chamber's edification, please.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 99, House Bill 6429. Calendar 331, Senate Bill 980. Calendar 399, Senate Bill 883. Calendar 439, House Bill 6632. Calendar 503, Senate Bill 1110. Calendar 585, Senate Bill 212. Calendar 586, Senate Bill 227. Calendar 491, Senate Bill 799. Calendar 535, Senate Bill 1116. Calendar 568, Senate Bill Number 1138. Calendar 637, Senate Bill 1160. Calendar 569, Senate Bill 1199. Calendar 616, Senate Bill 973. Calendar 583, Senate Bill 98. And Calendar 517, Senate Bil SB1062.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The question before us is on passage of the bills on today's -- Consent Calendar. Will you remark? If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, members take your seats, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting today's Consent Calendar by roll call. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, Clerk will take a tally. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar,

Total Number voting	148
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Necessary for passage	75
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Those voting Yea	148
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Those voting Nay	0
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Those absent and not voting	3
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DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Consent Calendar is passed.

Representative Sharkey, you have the floor, sir.

Is there business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CLERK:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 2
332 - 697**

2011

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pat/gbr PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 23, 2011
10:00 A.M.

SENATOR LOONEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We'll kick off. I'm Martin Looney. I represent the 11th Senatorial District, New Haven, Hamden and Senate Majority Leader and accompanied by House Republican Leader, Larry Cafero, Senator Bob Duff of Norwalk and we have several interested parties with a great interest in this bill who will also speak.

The key to Senate Bill 799, it came out of a very painful incident in Fairfield County, and we believe this bill, AN ACT CONCERNING MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST is critically important to enhance the penalties for someone who poses in that capacity because of all the harm that can be done, and as we saw was done in the incident in Norwalk and Weston.

And we're proposing for this, a new criminal offense that will be up to five years in prison and up to a \$500 fine for each offense, which would make it comparable to the possible penalty for posing as a healthcare provider in other ways.

We know that posing as a physical therapist or other kind of therapist can be punished in that way. Because posing as a behavioral therapist who was not covered under the statute, the current penalties were less than they really should have been in this case.

The reason that a substantial penalty was imposed in this case was because of the amount of money stolen, basically, because the amount of the larceny was so substantial that it allowed for a significant larceny charge.

But the general criminal impersonation statute as we know, it's only a Class D misdemeanor, and except for those cases where there is a specific

statute enhancing the penalty for posing as a healthcare provider, and we believe that this kind of incident should be covered in that bill.

And I'll turn it over now to Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Committee. Appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about this bill.

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My wife and I were blessed with three children, and anybody who is a parent knows that when your kid is hurting, when your kid needs something, when you see them struggling, there is nothing that you will not do to help them. There is no one that you won't go to, to seek that help and you are very vulnerable as a parent at that time, as are the children.

And in the case that we experienced in Norwalk, and also in the Town of Weston, when those parents, many of which you will hear from today in that state of vulnerability and desperation, reached out, they were met by a woman by the name of Stacey Lore, who held herself out to be an autism therapist.

They entrusted their child with that person. She had no credentials whatsoever. She took their money, the money of the city as well, and she spent time with these children, parents believing that she was helping their kid, their most precious possession, and it turned out she was a fraud.

And but for the fact that she received money from the town and wrongfully, which would make her guilty of a larceny, there was no other penalty on the books for her misrepresentation. It was just a common misrepresentation that is

punishable in our law but treated as a misdemeanor.

So we felt that it was important to make a statement so that the Stacy Lores of the world out there that might even have an inkling of doing this to other children and other parents would know that if they do they will pay a very heavy price.

And that in sum and substance is the bill before you and would appreciate it if you give it serious consideration.

I'd like to turn it over to Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF: Thank you, and thank you to the members of the Committee for hearing us today and for bringing this up. It is, indeed, an honor and a pleasure to sit with Senator Looney and Representative Cafero and of course, the parents who were behind this bill as well.

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You have my testimony, but I'm just going to briefly say that I believe this bill sends a loud and clear message to the Stacy Lores of the world, that no longer can somebody act in the way that she did.

Not only did she cost the taxpayers of the City of Norwalk \$150,000, but she cost the parents and the children time which can never be replaced.

You speak to the parents, and I'm sure they'll speak to it as well, about how those children had over a year or year and a half worth of what they thought was therapy, but they watched their kids go backwards, not make the progress that they needed to make and that time can never possibly be replaced.

And so therefore, you know, we have done some great legislation over the last few years in autism and autism related types of work here, but this actually closes the loop.

This says that no longer will this state tolerate somebody who says that they're something when they're not. And if they do say that, we're going to send the long arm of the law after them, whether it's in fines or hopefully jail time.

And for somebody like Stacy Lore, if we had this legislation a few years ago, she probably might be spending the rest of her life in prison. Indeed, I think we'd all agree that that would be a punishment that would fit.

She has done serious damages not only to our community, to also the Town of Weston as well, to our children. Thankfully, we have great parents here who are resolved in making sure that their children aren't left behind, that they're continuing to fight.

But also, we have parents here who are not just inclined to worry about their own children, but are inclined to think about children ahead, that they're making sure that those children going forward have the protections that their children did not have.

So I commend them for being here, for worrying about all the other children in the State of Connecticut, not just their own, and taking the time to continue to push this Legislature to make sure that we're protecting our children from the Stacy Lores of this world going forward. Thank you very much.

REP. RITTER: Thank you, gentlemen, and I understand that you all might like a minute to speak as well, which would be great. I'd like to ask a

question of, I guess the three of you unless you have an officially agreed upon and appointed spokesperson.

And that is along the lines of the following. When I first saw this proposal, and understood what had happened, I was equally horrified, but started to wonder if this was statutorily essentially the only instance where this type of thing could happen and is that because of the way we have chosen to either carve out or treat these particular services, or if we should be looking broader, and I would ask your opinions on that.

SENATOR LOONEY: Madam Chair, I think that's an excellent question. I think it is because of the nature of the statute, the current statute that provides enhanced penalties for misrepresentation as a medical provider, lists the number of particular specialties and fields and did not unfortunately, does not list this one, which is why only the general criminal impersonation statute would be applicable in this case.

But obviously there could conceivably be other kinds of instances where this, in fact, could happen, where someone, there may be other specialties that are not covered under the current statute where misrepresentation could occur. So clearly, that is something that the Committee could consider in its wisdom as to whether even a broader net should be cast.

REP. CAFERO: Madam Chair, along those lines, it is almost impossible for us to predict the various professions and occupations that might come in the future with the advent of technology and education, et cetera.

So I hear your point, that if in the wisdom of this Committee there could be a definition, if you will, a description of people like the Stacy

Lores of the world, or occupations such as a behavior analyst, a physical therapist, et cetera, that could be captured and provide the same kind of penalty in the case of violation, I think that would be good.

There are certain occupations and professions that five years ago didn't even exist and now they do. And I think the crux of it is, is when someone is in this fiduciary relationship with a parent and a child, that their well being is dependent on that person, physical, emotional, mental, et cetera, and that is done perpetrated as a fraud for their own, to feather their own nest or to get their jollies, there has to be a punishment.

So if in the wisdom of this Committee you could find a broader, more appropriate definition that would not have to be changed with the advent of new occupations, et cetera, I think that would serve everyone well.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Senator Duff, did you want to add to that?

SENATOR DUFF: No.

REP. RITTER: No? Thank you. Perhaps before we have questions, we might want to hear from the rest of the group and then entertain questions from the Committee, if we could. Would that be possible, Representative Abercrombie, to wait until we hear from the rest of this group? Okay. Thank you.

And I don't know if you appointed a spokesperson, or how you intend to go, but I would ask that you please introduce yourself, and obviously, use the microphone so that we can get your testimony on the record. Thank you.

MARIA DOMINICI: Thank you to all the members of the Committee for allowing us to come today. Thank you for listening to us.

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My name is Maria Dominici and I'm from Weston, and I have a daughter with autism. From the ages of three and a half to five years old, my daughter was treated by and cared for, fraudulent behavior analyst, Miss Stacy Lore.

Today my daughter is none years old and she is still very impaired. She is non-verbal and she is unable to care for herself. I will never know what her capabilities may have been had she spent that year and a half with a certified, educated behavior analyst that was appropriate.

An issue that many people might not recognize is the importance of early intervention. With autism or any other developmental delay, early intervention is crucial while the brain is still young and forming and growing.

When a proper behavior modification program is provided for children with autism during the critical window of learning time, the percentage of success is far greater.

And by success, I mean taking a child that may not have been able to learn or behave functionally, and helping them to develop into an independent functional individual.

Applied behavior analysis is the only scientifically proven method that can take a child with autism and help them to learn how to learn on their own, and only certified behavior analysts are capable of treating our needy children. My daughter was not treated by someone that was capable or appropriate.

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Let me please speak about the financial issue of autism. When a child becomes an adult and cannot care for him or herself, that adult needs to rely on the state.

When you give a child with autism treatment at an early age when their window of opportunity to learn is at its greatest, you give that child the opportunity to become an independent person one day.

And by doing so, the state is then relieved of the burden to care for these individuals when they become adults, and in some cases, that can be as much as 70 years of caring for one person.

Punishing individuals that misrepresent themselves as behavior analysts to the fullest extent of the law is a necessity. In fact, I believe it is a crime not to do this.

We as individuals, who are capable of making change must do so for those who cannot help themselves. It is us who must create laws to protect those who are needy and so dependent upon the rest of us.

If we ignore injustices that hurt our children and hurt them for their entire lives, then we are no better and then we are guilty ourselves. Thank you very much for your time today.

REP. RITTER: Thank you for your testimony.

MARIA DOMINICI: Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Yes.

KHRISTINE MARINO: Hi. My name is Kristine Marino and to start off, I'm a little nervous speaking, so if I stumble, please, I apologize now.

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But, I am a board certified behavior analyst. I have been working in the field for going on 11 years now and I have seen in a lot of situations, very unfortunately, firsthand what can happen to the progress of a child when I receive them, and they've either had lack of services or poor services provided by individuals who were not experienced or certified.

And I can't, you know, Maria I think said it very well and I can't stress enough the magnitude of the effect that somebody who is unqualified and uncertified working with a child on the spectrum, particularly, that that can have on their progress, you know, educationally, socially, their being able to live independently and just on the general well being and emotions of that particular child and their family.

And I think Senator Duff said it well, too, that it's not just that specific time that services were provided that's lost, it's exponentially, it takes more time to catch up and in some cases, especially in the case of early intervention, that can be, that loss of time can actually be irreparable.

We as behavior analysts are primarily concerned with a focus on using positive reinforcements and observing measurable behavior using a body of research, peer review research that has been proven to be effective with this population, and we go through a rigorous process in order to get certification.

It seems to make sense that anybody posing as somebody who is certified would have a similar punishment to someone who's a speech and language pathologist or an occupational therapist or somebody similar providing therapeutic services.

I think that this also directly relates to passed legislation that was passed recently for both insurance companies to provide coverage for behavior analytic services as well as the legislation passed last year that dictates that if a student has behavior analytic services outlined in their individual education plan, that those be provided by someone who is certified or has behavior analysis in their scope of practice.

And additionally, I think that, you know, Maria made the point as well, that the better quality of care that students have, that this population, that this very vulnerable population has initially, the more cost savings there is in the end because they won't need as much care to carry them throughout their lives and be independent.

And lastly, I think that there are individuals who are very well intentioned and do have experience, but maybe are not yet certified. But I think that, you know, making sure that there's a punishment in place for misrepresenting yourself, may prompt those individuals to go out and get certification.

I think that would help parents and school districts and other people looking for services to better determine who it is that they should be hiring. Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. And if you would also make sure to introduce yourself as well.

MARGARET BUSTELL: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Committee. Thank you for hearing us to testify today. My name is Margaret Bustell and I live in Norwalk, and I also had a child who was unfortunate enough to work with Stacy Lore.

From the period of when he was two years old to three and a half, he worked with Ms. Lore. At

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this time he was completely non-verbal, and as Representative Cafero discussed, we were desperate to do anything to help our child.

At a minimum, we needed help for him to learn functional sign language so he could communicate with us if he was hungry, if he was tired, if he needed something. We didn't have the skills to communicate with him.

Ms. Lore came in like the Pied Piper, looked great with her impressive resumes including BCBA certification and said she could teach in sign language, which she did.

However, she taught him signs that were easy for her to teach, so instead of learning eat or tired, he learned pal and pig and chicken because they were easy signs and she wanted to show that she was making progress, which is great, but my son didn't need to tell me about a cow. He needed to tell me if he was tired.

As you can imagine, it was incredibly frustrating, but I feel we're such a vulnerable population for a couple of reasons.

One is, of course, you have these children and they're non-verbal. There's this window of opportunity that's been discussed, and it's so crucial. You get in there and you can make new pathways and help these children learn in different ways.

But the other reason is kind of like when you have, when your plumbing is broken or you need your car fixed, you don't know if you're not a professional what it's supposed to look like, and so you're trusting that these people who say that they have the credentials come in and they do the care that they're supposed to.

And because you're not that certified plumber or you're not a mechanic, you have to hope that the engine is running the way it should, and oftentimes by the time you realize there's a problem it's so far down the road the damage has been done.

In the case of my son, I ended up spending hundreds of dollars buying my own sign language equipment and teaching him how to sign and then by the time he stopped working with her he was still non-verbal and he had a lot of rigid and robotic behaviors. He was very stinny. He sort of had lost his desire to learn because it wasn't enjoyable for him.

A good applied behavioral analysis program should move quickly and should stay with the child and she simply did not have the skills to do that.

The other reason that I think this is an area of concern is that the rates of autism are going through the roof, and you are seeing school districts taxed because there just aren't enough resources out there.

So if a Stacy Lore comes in and she looks great and she has the credentials on paper, sometimes it's a relief and they're just more than willing to go and give this person. Obviously, there's some due diligence that should have been done on that side.

But I guess the point is that the field is ripe for people to come in and see an opportunity, both with parents and both with students, to come and frankly make some easy money, and I think passing a bill like this would send a very strong message that this is absolutely unacceptable to take, to steal this time from these families, to steal our ability to communicate with our

children just for the sake of making some easy money.

So I thank the Senators and Representative Cafero for their hard work on this, and I guess the best thing about this really disgusting situation with Stacy Lore is this very positive legislation that's come in its wake.

So I thank you and I hope you'll pass this.

REP. RITTER: Thank you very much. Are there questions from the Committee? Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Not a question but just a couple of comments. To my colleagues, thank you very much for this bill. I think it sends a strong message.

I'm sad that we had to be here today under these circumstances, and that these poor families had to endure what you went through.

You know, as someone that has worked on this issue for the last five years, I know firsthand behavioral therapy, what a difference it can make in a child's life if it's done right, you know, and it's the burden, not only at the adults, but even in our school district. These are kids that can be mainstreamed versus having to go into the special ed. So I think that it's, you know, it's very important.

I'm sorry what you had to go through and I think the worst thing is the fact that as a parent, thinking that what if, you can never go back. And we know that behavioral therapy has to be done in the early years. You cannot go back with that, so I'm sorry that you had to go through that.

For the behavioral analysts, I'm happy to say that we have St. Joseph's that does the certification now in Connecticut, so there's no reason why a lot of our special ed teachers that are in the process of getting their certification cannot finish. And Southern is also doing the program.

So thank you for being here today, and I wish your families much success in the future.

REP. RITTER: Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS: Thank you, Madam Chair. What a tragic story this is, and I really, really, my heart goes out to you and I just think this is sickening, but I'm very happy that this has been brought before us and clearly, you're going to get some very strong support for it.

I have two questions. One is, what was the consequence or penalty to Stacy Lore for having done this prior to the introduction of this Bill?

And the second one is really probably more ignorance on my part, but when the school districts hire people such as Stacy, do they not do background checks or references, or is there just such an overwhelming demand that you just accept people with the qualifications they submit on paper. To anybody.

MARIA DOMINICI: Thank you for your question. With regard to the school districts, I think now they're all doing background checks on everyone. But unfortunately, during this time when we employed Stacy Lore, they didn't.

So it kind of makes you wonder who else they're not doing a background check on and who else is in our schools with our children every day.

She really fabricated her credentials. Actually, Margaret told us that she saw fraudulent BCBA certifications, fraudulent diplomas from NYU, I believe. She was, but she just didn't do a good enough job because Margaret could tell that they were fabricated but unfortunately no, our school did not check.

MARGARET BUSTELL: And just to add to that, apparently where the loophole was is that Stacy was technically not an employee of the Norwalk public schools, she was a contractor.

Now that said, there was supposed to be procedures in place where they were vetted, the same as any individual. In fact, the mayor of the town said to me, I had to get fingerprinted to read to first graders and I'm the mayor.

Another mother and I filed Freedom of Information requests and they had to open the files and they didn't even have an application. There was no resume. There was no application, no background check.

And the frightening thing for me was, because my son was nonverbal, she could have been a sexual predator and I would have never known. She could have molested him and I would have never known. I don't think that happened, but the point is, the opportunities and the horrible possibilities were endless and there was definitely a huge dropping of the ball on the school's end.

As far as the criminal penalties, as one of the legislators said, it was because, I think it was Senator Looney, it was because of the larceny. We personally paid her to supplement the school's care so the school paid her about \$160,000. We mortgaged our home and we paid her another \$20,000, and because of those large amounts, that's why she was sentenced.

She got an eight-year sentence, three years in prison and five years' probation.

SENATOR LOONEY: The Norwalk case resulted in a charge of larceny in the first degree because of the substantial amount of money, forgery in the second degree because I believe of the fraudulent diplomas and then the criminal impersonation charge, which was only the Class B misdemeanor.

In Weston, there was another larceny in the first degree again because of the substantial amount of money taken from there.

REP. CAFERO: Representative Betts, just to highlight what Senator Looney just indicated. But for the fact that she took the money she would be facing, as far as her impersonation of a behavioral therapist, a Class B misdemeanor, which I believe does not have any prison sentence associated with it, or certainly one that was far less than the larceny she was eventually charged with.

SENATOR LOONEY: (Inaudible) less than a year.

SENATOR DUFF: One other thing I just want to add is, if it weren't for Detective David Orr of the Norwalk Police Department and the people like Margaret who really wouldn't let go, saying that you know, there's something wrong here, and Detective Orr who just connected the dots. A very difficult case, trying to find a needle in multiple haystacks, I would probably say.

Stacy Lore might be, she might not work for the Norwalk school system any more or Weston school system, but she could be someplace else working in some other school district in some other part of the state or New York State.

So I would say that if it weren't for some really good detective work as well, that she might be somebody who's not in prison at the moment.

MARGARET BUSTELL: And I just want to add to the fact that Stacy actually perpetrated this hoax in at least five Connecticut school districts and then other districts in New York State as well. So she was very good at doing this.

I think it's a real concern that you want to deter these people from doing it.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I'm extremely sorry to hear what you have gone through and the questions I had were more to you as, you know, there's a difference between qualification, being qualified and being certified. You know, there's a gap there between the two in any and every medical profession.

They want to know, in this particular field, you know, is there a gap between being qualified but not necessarily being certified, a), and b), if you can answer for me that once certified is that certified for life or do you have to go back like in the medical specialties to be re-certified every five years or ten years. Each board is different, and what are the rules and regulations as far as your board is concerned in terms of being re-certified again. Thank you.

KRISTINE MARINO: I can answer that. As far as requirements for re-certification, behavior analysts must pass a certification exam initially and then must require continuing education credits and turn those in every three years. So yes, behavior analysts do have to be re-certified. It's a process. They have, you know, go through the continuing education process and

then turn in those credits every three years to show that they're keeping up with the current research, that they're following current ethical guidelines, et cetera.

As far as the gap between someone being qualified and being certified, well I think it goes a couple different ways.

One, I think there are definitely people who probably are qualified but don't have a certification. But I think that without the certification it makes it really difficult for the consumer to know whether that person is qualified or not.

Whereas, you know, going through the certification process kind of proves it, that they have the qualification, and so I do think that you know, furthering the legislation, that kind of pushes for certification. I think that that would prompt the qualified people to go ahead and get certified so that it's more obvious who they are and, you know, people can get services from them and not the people who are uncertified and unqualified.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you.

KRISTINE MARINO: You're welcome.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Are there questions or comments from the Committee? Thank you very much for coming, and I, certainly you can tell from the attention, with the riveting attention, I think.

I don't think there's anyone here who wouldn't say fairly that their hearts break for you and your families and we very much appreciate your

advocacy and your time in bringing this forward to us because this is a very serious matter, and as a parent, as Representative Cafero said at the very beginning, none of us aren't parents and believe me, our hearts are breaking. Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY: Thank you, Madam Chairs. In its own way, this offense might be seen as potentially as serious or perhaps even more serious than what Bernie Madoff did in terms of the equivalent of harm done acting in reliance on someone. That's why I think we need to reflect that in our statute that covers other medical professions, but currently not this.

As we all know, our statutes sometimes lag a little bit behind where they need to be in order to cover situations that arise.

A few years ago we had the situation where conduct that we now characterize as voyeurism was not actually covered in our statutes, and then a new statute had to be created to cover that.

So we're hoping to fill that gap by doing this. And thank you so much and to this Committee for your interest and attention.

KRISTINE MARINO: Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Thank you, all. I think I'll bring us back to the agenda we were in the process of hearing on House Bill 5639, and our next speaker would be Michelle Pepe to be followed by David Chang.

MICHELLE PEPE: Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Michelle Pepe. I reside in Bethany. I'm in support of Bill 5639 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS.



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE F. CAFERO, JR.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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Good Morning Senate Chair Stillman and House Chair Ritter, Ranking Members Welch and Perillo and Members of the Public Health Committee. I am here today to testify in support of Proposed Bill Number 799: An Act Concerning Misrepresentation as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

This legislation seeks to make it a crime in Connecticut for a person to misrepresent his or her credentials as a board certified behavior analyst, with enhanced penalties if such person provides client services based upon this misrepresentation.

Unfortunately, there are persons in our communities who seek to take financial advantage of vulnerable families who are seeking therapy for autism. We saw this happen recently in the Norwalk and Weston school systems, when Stacy Lore produced false credentials to obtain employment as an autism therapist. Her act of deceit not only cost schools and families large amounts of money, she also broke the trust of families who look to professionals to guide them through difficult times and to provide critical treatment for their children.

Autism spectrum disorder affects thousands of Connecticut families. It is imperative that we protect these families by making it a crime to treat clients without the proper credentials and training. Ideally, with this legislation, we can prevent persons like Stacy Lore from taking advantage of families in the future.

I urge the Public Health Committee to pass Proposed Bill Number 799 to protect families battling with autism spectrum disorder.



SENATOR BOB DUFF
 Norwalk & Darien
Assistant Majority Leader

Chair
 Banks
Vice Chair
 Transportation • Energy & Technology
Member
 Appropriations
Appropriations Subcommittee Chair
 Results-Based Accountability
 Conservation & Development

Testimony by Senator Bob Duff
PROPOSED BILL 799, AN ACT CONCERNING
 MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD-CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST
 February 23, 2011

To: The Hon. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chair, The Hon. Betsy Ritter, Co-Chair, The Hon. Gayle Slossberg, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Christopher Liddy, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Jason Welch, Ranking Member, The Hon. Jason Perillo, Ranking member, and members of the Public Health Committee.

I want to thank the Committee for hearing PROPOSED BILL 799, AN ACT CONCERNING MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST.

In Norwalk a case arose in which a woman provided services to the Norwalk Public School system as a consultant from 2007 to 2008, charging more than \$150,000 in taxpayer funds. She was found guilty of forging credentials to treat autistic children and grand larceny. This is about more than the cost of her fraud to the taxpayers, it is about our children. Intense therapy and education is vital to the early development of autistic children, as many studies have shown, and the children she worked with will never get this important time back.

Two years ago, Connecticut became one of the first states to mandate comprehensive insurance for autism disorders. Last year, the Assembly mandated that school districts regulate the administration and supervision of services given to autistic children. This bill makes it a crime to represent one's self as a Certified Autism Behavior Analyst without the proper credentials, bringing it in line with penalties for misrepresenting as a speech, occupational, or physical therapist. This bill will give important protections to our most vulnerable children, preventing setbacks during a vital time in their development.

I urge the Committee to give this bill every consideration possible.

Margaret Bustell statement re: SB-799

My name is Margaret Bustell. I live in Norwalk and I am the parent of a child with autism and I am here today in support of SB-799.

I have a personal connection to this proposed legislation. A precious year and a half of my son's life was squandered under the care of Stacy Lore, a woman who posed as a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA).

When we were first introduced to Stacy Lore, our world was crashing around us. We had just learned that our son, Henry, had autism and we were desperate to do whatever we could to help him. She was already working in the Norwalk Schools and her resume was impressive – multiple degrees and most importantly, she was a Board Certified Behavior Analyst – BCBA.

Under Stacy's care, our son made some initial progress but then stopped. He became rigid and robotic. Saddest of all, was his inability to communicate. Our son was non-verbal at the time. He was unable to tell us when he was tired or hungry or to communicate basic needs. You cannot imagine how painful it is to not be able to reach your child, to hear him cry but not know what it is that he needs. Under Stacy's care, Henry learned sign language but it was animal signs, not signs like hungry or tired that would help him communicate his basic needs. I later learned that she taught him these signs because they were easy and that she wanted to show some success.

When we learned that Ms. Lore had faked her credentials, we were devastated. We had poured all our financial resources into our son's program, based on the fact that she had the BCBA certification. We trusted that she knew what she was doing but instead we squandered that small window of opportunity for recovery.

As soon as we learned that Lore was a fake, we moved our son into a full-time program with a legitimate BCBA. Under their care, he finally began to speak. It hasn't been an easy road. It took a long time for our son to 'unlearn' the bad behaviors he learned from Stacy and her untrained staff. He still perseverates on numbers and letters and struggles with social skills and things like how to have a conversation with a peer. It's hard not to think about where he could be had he received proper care during that crucial window. I personally believe, he would have been recovered.

Stacy Lore looked at our family – at our desperation to help our child – and saw some easy money. Now more than ever, as autism rates continue to rise, it is crucial that we protect Connecticut children from anyone looking to profit by posing as a BCBA and treating special needs kids. If SB-799 were already a law, Stacy Lore might not have been so bold in

her deceit and my son would not have been cheated out of his window of opportunity for recovery.

SB-799 is an important piece of legislation and I would like to personally thank Senators Bob Duff and Martin Looney and Representative Larry Cafero for their work on this.

The only bright light in the painful events of our encounter with Stacy Lore has been the legislation that has come in its wake. With the passage of this bill, we will send a strong message to anyone who falsely poses as a BCBA, that their fraudulent actions will have serious consequences.

Please pass SB-799 and protect children with autism in Connecticut from receiving fraudulent and ineffective care.

Thank you.

To: Health & Human Services Committee

From: Stephen Eversole, Ed.D., BCBA-D

Date: February 23, 2011

Re: Testimony in support of SB 799

I would like to express my support for SB 799. Senators Looney & Duff, and State Representative Cafero have proposed this legislation to help protect children with autism from non-credentialed service providers. Having been a behavior analyst for nearly 30 years and a BCBA since the inception of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, I know that absent this protection, children have been harmed and will continue to be harmed.

Applied behavior analysis is a scientific discipline, the roots of which go back to the 1930s. However, its start may be more accurately marked by the introduction of its flagship peer-reviewed scientific publication in 1968—the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. The point is that applied behavior analysis is an established discipline with a strong empirical foundation.

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) was established in 1998 to certify individuals as having minimal qualifications to practice applied behavior analysis. To date, the Board has, I believe, over 8,000 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs). To become a BCBA, an individual must have a Master's degree, completed a very specific curriculum, completed supervision requirements, and passed an exam. The BACB is a member of the National Association of Certifying Agencies (NOCA)—an agency whose mission it is to identify processes that yield valid credentials and recognize organizations that meet their standards.

In summary, BCBAs are members of a true profession that exists at no cost to the taxpayer. They have a set of skills that require years of specialized training to acquire. Please help protect this profession and the consumers of applied behavior analytic services by making it a felony for individuals to falsely claim this credential.

Thank you,

Stephen Eversole, Ed.D., BCBA-D
Owner
Behavior Development Solutions
80 Paper Mill Rd.
Woodbury, CT 06798

Residence: 80 Paper Mill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798

To: Health & Human Services Committee
From: Suzanne Letso, M.A., BCBA & parent of a son with autism
Date: February 23, 2011
Re: Testimony in support of SB 799

I can't thank Senators Looney & Duff, and State Representative Cafero enough for co-authoring this important legislation. They have found a cost neutral solution to a problem that has affected Connecticut's children with autism for years. SB 799 will protect Connecticut's most vulnerable children, our tax dollars, and state agencies from fraud.

SB 799 is consistent with existing legislation relative to insurance coverage and credential requirements that were passed last year for publicly funded special education services. This legislation will also lay the groundwork for future licensure legislation when there the state has the funding available to operate such a program.

While implementation of this legislation will not add any cost to Connecticut's budget, by ensuring that individuals who are working with our children with learning exceptionalities are qualified to do so, we also anticipate a cost savings in the future.

Yours truly,

Suzanne Letso
Chief Executive Officer
Connecticut Center for Child Development, Inc.
95 Wolf Harbor Road
Milford, CT 06461

Residence: 93 Poverty Hollow Road, Newtown, CT 06470

Statement of Kristine Marino, BCBA, in support of SB 799

I would like to express my appreciation for your consideration of this legislation, SB 799, and urge you to pass this hugely important bill. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who has worked with children on the Autism spectrum for the past 11 years, I know firsthand how fragile this particular population is. I have seen the results that a lack of services can have on the progress and general well-being of our clients, as well as on the financial and emotional well-being of their families. I cannot stress enough the magnitude of the effect that uncertified, unqualified provider could have on this population. The effect would not merely be equal to the time during which those services were provided, but far beyond that, and in some cases may take years to repair.

While I am happy to see consequences delivered for Stacy Lore's actions, I feel that far more is necessary in order to deter similar fraud in the future. It makes sense that the consequences would be equal to what is given to someone who would fraudulently pose as a speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, nurse, doctor, psychiatrist, or anyone else providing therapeutic services. Behavior Analysts are concerned with socially meaningful outcomes for all populations; our long-term goal is to help people become as successful and independent as possible, which translates directly to reduction in cost for lifelong care. While we would like to pursue the route of licensure in the future, at this point the cost would be too great to the budget. Connecticut's Birth to Three program has been requiring certified Behavior Analysts for about 10 years now, which helps lay foundation for future licensure while offering protection until budget allows us to take that route. Additionally, SB 799 directly relates to recent legislation that was passed requiring insurance companies to cover behavior analytic services, and legislation passed that requires individuals with Behavior Analysis within their scope of practice to be the service providers when a student's Individualized Education Plan calls for behavior analytic services. Finally, this legislation is likely to prompt professionals who are currently uncertified but well-intentioned and experienced to pursue certification, thus making it simpler for families, school districts and others looking for services to determine who to hire.

Thank you so much for hearing my testimony.

Kristine L. Marino, M.S., BCBA
659 West Avenue
Unit #7
Milford, CT 06461

Statement of Maria Dominici to the Public Health Committee re: SB 799

My name is Maria Dominici and I have a daughter with autism. Between the ages of 3 1/2 to 5 years, my daughter was treated by fraudulent behavior analyst Stacy Lore. My daughter is now 9 years old and still very impaired. She is non-verbal and cannot care for herself. I will never know what her capabilities may have been if she had spent that year and a half with an educated, certified behavior analyst.

An issue many people might not recognize is the importance of early intervention. With autism or any other developmental delay, early intervention is crucial while the brain is still young and forming and growing. When a proper behavior modification program is provided for children with autism during that critical "window" of learning time, then the percentage of success is much greater. And by success, I mean taking a child that may not have been able to learn or behave functionally and helping them to develop into an independent, functional individual. Applied behavior analysis is the only scientifically proven method that can take a child with autism and help them to learn on their own. And only certified behavior analysts are capable of treating our needy children. My daughter was not treated by someone that was capable or appropriate.

Let me please talk about the financial issue of autism. When a child becomes an adult and cannot care for him/herself, that adult needs to be cared for by our state. When you give a child with autism an appropriate treatment at a young age, when their window of opportunity to learn is so great, then you give that child an opportunity to live an independent life someday. And by doing so, the state is relieved of the burden to care for these children once they become adults. And that could be as much as 70 years of caring for just one person.

Punishing individuals that misrepresent themselves as behavior analysts, to the fullest extent of the law, is a necessity. In fact, it's criminal not to do so. We, as individuals who are capable of making change must do so for those who cannot do it for themselves. It is us who must create laws that protect those who are needy and so dependent upon the rest of us. If we ignore injustices that hurt our children and hurt them for their entire lives, then we are no better. Then we are guilty ourselves.



Thank you to Senators Looney and Duff, Representative Cafero for the introduction of Senate Bill 799. You have taken a powerful stand for our families with the introduction of this bill and we are grateful for your leadership in protecting some of the states most vulnerable people; children with disabilities such as autism.

Just as any family living with a medical disorder would do, we rely on the advice of doctors, therapists and educators to help guide us towards the BEST, most appropriate, most effective services for our children. Unfortunately, that also often leaves our families vulnerable. Because we are so determined, often desperate, to help our children we can be criminal targets and fall prey to people who claim to be able to HELP when in reality, they are only looking to profit on our children's disability.

Such criminal acts, with criminal intent deserve the punishment due a criminal.

Senate Bill 799 would protect families from predators only seeking profit without credentials. It would punish criminals who prey on trusting families who only seek the best for their children.

In the same way someone posing as a speech or occupational therapist would be held accountable for their actions by law, so should a person willingly misrepresenting himself as a board certified behavior analyst.

I am again proud of Connecticut for leading the way to protecting our families and children, being only the second state in the country to act on making the impersonation of a BCBA a criminal act. As a community, we are grateful that legislators listened to our families and took action on our behalf.

Shannon Knall

Autism Speaks Connecticut Advocacy Chair

connecticutcac@autismspeaks.org

www.autismvotes.org/connecticut

Senator Martin Looney
Senate Majority Leader

On

Proposed Senate Bill 799: An Act Concerning Misrepresentation as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Joint Committee on Public Health

February 23, 2011

Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Proposed Senate Bill 799, *AN ACT CONCERNING MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST*. With this legislation, we are proposing a new criminal offense explicitly punishing an individual who falsely represents that he or she is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) certified by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), and who treats any patient, almost certainly a child with autism.

The penalty we are proposing for this new criminal offense will be up to 5 years in prison and up to a \$500 fine for each offense – with each instance of patient contact or consultation constituting a separate offense. That is the penalty under current Connecticut law for fraudulently posing as a speech, occupational or physical therapist. I believe it is clear that the penalty for posing as a BCBA, and purporting to treat a child who most likely is on the autism spectrum, should be at least as severe.

The impetus for this proposal comes from a tragic situation that occurred throughout Fairfield County over the last several years. Between 2005 and 2008 a woman named Stacy Lore fraudulently misrepresented herself to be a BCBA. She was hired by 5 school districts, including both Norwalk and Weston, to treat autistic children with critically necessary behavioral therapy, also known as applied behavioral analysis (ABA). She billed Norwalk around \$200,000 and Weston around \$300,000. She also was hired by, and worked directly for, families outside the school setting.

She treated children with autism for several years, critical early years that they will never get back. Today we will hear testimony from at least two of the parents of these innocent victims.

When it was finally discovered that Lore was not in fact a BCBA, had received no training in behavioral therapy whatsoever, and actually only had a GED, she was charged in Norwalk with Larceny in the 1st degree, Forgery in the 2nd, and the Class B misdemeanor of “criminal impersonation”, which is essentially the impersonation of

anyone for fraudulent purposes. She was charged in Weston only with Larceny in the 1st degree. In September 2010 she pled guilty, and was given an eight year sentence, with possible suspension after three years.

I believe it is clear that the offense that Stacy Lore committed is far worse than just larceny, forgery or general impersonation. Instead, she posed as a health care provider, and treated autistic children although she was not trained to do so. The stunning magnitude of the potential damage to these children cannot be overstated. Especially for children on the autism spectrum, early intervention and proper care means everything. Sadly, she may have stolen much more than just money with her untrained, fraudulent therapies. And yet, under current law, there is no underlying criminal offense directly punishing these heinous acts.

In contrast, however, there are very significant criminal penalties on the books for fraudulently posing not even as a medical doctor, but as a physical therapist, occupational therapist or speech therapist. Under Connecticut law, the very act of posing as any one of these therapists results in a criminal penalty per offense of up to five years in prison and a \$500 fine – with *each instance of patient contact or consultation constituting a separate offense*. These penalties apply regardless of the amount of any money that may be stolen, or whether or not any documents are forged.

If Connecticut law treated posing as a BCBA as seriously as posing as a speech, occupational or physical therapist, Stacy Lore would have been subject to dozens of years in prison. And, I believe she should have been. Under our proposal, anyone committing similar illegal acts will be.

While Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts are not yet licensed in the State of Connecticut, they have long been recognized in several areas of our state law. They enjoy long-standing status as qualified “professional providers” in our “Birth to Three” program. Their services have long been funded by the Department of Children and Families, and are explicitly covered under our state’s insurance mandate laws. Finally, they have been formally recognized under our education statutes, as providers authorized to perform ABA in our schools.

Most importantly, I believe it is clear that BCBAs are the indispensable backbone of care for our ever growing number of children with autism. They, along with psychologists and social workers, provide the behavioral therapies like ABA that can and do make all the difference in the world for children with autism. It has been estimated in the past that a new licensure scheme for behavior analysts would cost more than half a million dollars to implement, and take several years to establish. I believe that, when it is feasible, we will take this step.

Until then, however, we must provide children and their families with the protection they need and deserve from this devastating type of fraud. In my opinion, the best way to deter this fraud is to punish it directly and with appropriate force under our criminal statutes.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 5
1390 - 1734**

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Madam President, on -- on page 46, Calendar Number 251, Senate Bill Number 799, AN ACT CONCERNING MISREPRESENTATION AS A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST, Favorable Reports of the Public Health, and Judiciary Committees.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana, you have the floor, madam.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is acceptance and passage.

Will you remark, madam?

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Yes, Madam.

This bill makes it a crime for anyone representing himself or herself as a board certified behavior analyst or a board certified assistant behavior analyst.

Madam President -- President, at this time I have an amendment. I would ask the Clerk to please call LCO Number 6118 and I be allowed to summarize; if he would please read and I'd be allowed to summarize.

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Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 6118, which shall be designated Senate Amendment "A," copies of which have been distributed.

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

-- Gerratana, you have the floor.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Madam President, I move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is adoption. Will you remark, madam?

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Yes. Thank you, please, Madam President.

This bill is just cleaning up and clarifying certain sections of the underlying bill that we have before us.

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Thank you, Senator Gerradano -- it's Gerratana.

Will you remark further on Senate Amendment "A?"

If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor,
please indicate by saying, aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed? The ayes have it. The amendment
is adopted.

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Yes, Madam President. I just want to let the Chamber know -- of course the Public Health Committee responded when there was an incident in a part of our state where a person was purporting herself as a certified behavior analyst and, of course, we responded appropriately by proposing this legislation, this legislation I hope the Chamber will pass today to remedy that situation, so no one will falsely proclaim themselves as a certified behavior analyst.

Thank you, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Gerratana.

Will you remark further on the underlying bill?

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Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Speaking in support of the -- of the bill as amended, I wanted to thank Senator Gerratana for bringing this forward. This is something on which Senator Duff has -- has worked very hard along with Representative Cafero and others because of the -- the very unfortunate situation that -- that arose in -- in Norwalk, giving rise to the need for this bill.

The problem, as it turned out, that someone who misrepresented herself as a licensed behavioral analyst, that particular specialty was not covered under the laws that -- that penalize criminal impersonation for various medical professionals as a -- as a felony.

In this case, that person was only liable to be prosecuted under the general impersonation statute, which is only a misdemeanor. There was also, of course, a number of felonies in terms of the amount of -- of money that was obtained under false pretenses, so there was a -- a felony prosecution for a -- for a major larceny. But as far as the misrepresentation went, there was a gap that did not cover this

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particular kind, and this provision will close that gap and list this particular specialty among those for which a misrepresentation would be a felony.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney.

Will you remark?

Senator Duff, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon.

It's nice to see you today.

And I want to rise to support this -- this very important legislation. I want to thank Senator Gerratana and for her help in shepherding this through the Public Health Committee, and especially Senator Looney and Representative Cafero. We've all really made this a -- quite a bipartisan piece of legislation because of an impact we've had in my City of Norwalk and some other communities throughout the State of Connecticut as well.

What had happened was we had a woman who was pretending to be a behavioral analyst in Norwalk and helping some -- well, purporting to help some children. What we found out later was that she was --

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she was phony. She was not what she said she was; she took money from our school district. And then on top of that, we have children who have -- have really missed a lot of opportunities, a lot of time with a therapist who could have helped these children and helped them move forward, but instead, they have lost that time that they never can get back again.

Thankfully, through the -- really the effort and hard work of parents who -- who didn't give up after they saw this -- this phony therapist and they saw their children regressing instead of progressing with their therapy, they -- they decided to take upon themselves to look up that, and this woman was -- was not even licensed, was not who she said she was. And they brought it to the media after many people had discounted them, had said that they were wrong and finally had this woman brought to justice.

Thankfully, her and her company are no longer -- exist.

But what we did find was that we saw a big gap in the law. And I think that this ends up kind of the third leg of the stool. A few years ago, we had passed some legislation that mandated insurance companies help children with autism. A few years ago,

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we had passed legislation that said that any kind of a therapist need to be ABA certified. And then this is the last piece of -- of the proverbial puzzle that says that you have to be who you are. You have to be who you say you are; if not, the long arm of the law is going to come after you.

So I think that this is a great legislation. And, fortunately, we have parents who came up and testified at the Public Health Committee who took time out of their schedules, not because it's going to help their children but because they want to protect children who were -- who -- in the future who are now going forward through therapy. And I commend them for their courage and for their help and for their energy, especially when they could have very easily focussed inward and just only on their children. But they've decided that they wanted to help not only their own kids, but they wanted to help other kids throughout the state as well.

So, again, I want to thank the Public Health Committee for all their work. I want to thank, again, Senator Looney and Representative Cafero and -- and the parents, because this legislation, I think, will certainly help.

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And last but not least, I also want to thank Joel Rudikoff, of our staff, who -- who helped draft this language as well. I think he -- he understands this about as well as anybody else does, and it was really a great team effort working with everybody.

And this legislation, while it may seem small to many, in the -- the autism community, I think this is going to prove to be a big win for them and for the residents of the state.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. What a chilling story.

Are there further comments?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

I also rise to support the bill. One of the towns that I represent, the Town of Weston, was also a victim of this individual and, in fact, took \$300,000 from their board of education, so I -- this is very good bill and I think we should all support it.

Thank you, very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Boucher.

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Further remarks?

If not, Senator Gerratana, you have the floor,
madam.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

If there is no further or if there is no
objection, I ask that this item be placed on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if we might stand at ease for
just a -- just a moment?

THE CHAIR:

The Chamber will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

The Chamber will come back to order.

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Madam President, have an additional item to add to the Consent Calendar, that is Calendar page 17, Calendar 318, Senate Bill 152.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk might now call the Second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Second Consent Calendar starts on page 7. It's Calendar Number 104, House Bill 6371.

And then we go to page 9, Calendar Number 187, Senate Bill Number 1053; page 12, Calendar Number 240, Senate Bill 1100; Calendar page 17, Calendar 318, Senate Bill 152; Calendar page 18, Calendar 338, House Bill 6319; Calendar page 37, Calendar 90, Senate Bill 464; Calendar page 43, Calendar 197, Senate Bill 1021; Calendar page 46, Calendar 251, Senate Bill 799.

That completes the Second Consent Calendar.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

If you will announce the pendency of a vote on the Consent Calendar, sir.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting by roll call on the Second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is voting by roll call on the Second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting by roll call on the Second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is now open, if the Senators will kindly record your vote.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madam President:

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Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar -- the Second Consent Calendar
is now adopted.

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Senator Looney, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, that will conclude our business
for -- for today's session.

I just wanted to announce that there will be a
Democratic caucus immediately upon conclusion of the
session and that it's our intention to convene
tomorrow at noon there, as I will yield the floor for
members, for purposes of announcements of committee
meetings or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any announcements or points of personal
privilege at this time?