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Public Health Committee
Hearing Friday, March 14, 2014 at 9:00 am
Testimony Regarding: Bill HB 5537 section 42 (6)
In Opposition

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Elizabeth Smith and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (B.C.B.A., certification #: 1-13-14094) practicing in Fairfield County, Connecticut. It has been brought to my attention that Bill HB 5537 has been proposed to expand the scope of practice of Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP's). In a regard to section 42-6, which includes a provision to include applied behavior analysis services in the scope of the practice of SLP's, I must oppose.

To include applied behavior analysis (ABA) procedures as being within the scope of practice should require the individual to demonstrate that they have sufficient training in coursework and/or experience. Currently, ABA is not within the scope of practice of SLP's as written by the Public Health Committee, Chapter 399, Sections 20-408. SLP's are not currently required to take coursework and/or complete training and experience requirements related to the provision of behavior analytic services. However, the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts and ABA has been defined in Connecticut legislation in Public Act No. 09-115. This Act also states that a behavior analyst certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB); a licensed physician; or a licensed psychologist are the only positions approved to provide and supervise behavior analytic services. In order to become a Behavior Analyst, specific coursework and training is required before taking an exam to become Board Certified. In addition, Public Act No. 11-228 states that no person shall be able to use terms such as "board certified behavior analyst" without certification from the BACB. Allowing ABA procedures to be used within the scope of practice of SLP's when in the absence of official certification is likely to create confusion for consumers, a lower quality of service, and negatively impact the fields of Behavior Analysis and Applied Behavior Analysis as a whole.

Due to the issues discussed above, allowing ABA procedures to be considered within the scope of SLP's is likely to negatively affect consumers of ABA services and the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. Without the proper coursework, training, experience and certification, ABA should not be included in the scope of practice for SLP's.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.
Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Smith