

Maris Pelkey
HB 5537

My name is Maris Pelkey. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and I oppose bill number HB 5537, Section 42 [6]. I oppose this bill as ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of Speech Language Pathologists. Behavior Analysts receive extensive education and oversight and must pass a examination before achieving certification in the field. SLPs are not required to take any classes or receive any training in ABA as part of their training to become SLPs.

Allowing an SLP to oversee an ABA program with no training in ABA would negatively impact consumers of ABA services. Additionally, any proposed expansion of an SLP's scope of practice must first be reviewed in accordance with Public Act 11-209, An Act Concerning the Department of Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maris Pelkey, MA, BCBA
Board Certified Behavior Analyst
35 Horton Avenue
Cheshire, CT 06410