

Patrick O'Leary
HB 5537

Good Evening,

My name is Patrick O'Leary, and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). I am writing in opposition to HB 5537, specifically Section 42, 6. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is not in the scope of practice for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). SLPs have extensive background and training on increasing the speech and language repertoires of learners. However, they are not required to take any courses in behavior analysis, nor do they have any training or experience in the provision of behavior analytic services as part of their training to become SLPs. Including the provision of applied behavior analysis into the scope of practice for SLPs imposes a negative impact onto consumers of ABA.

BCBAs have extensive graduate and post-graduate training in the delivery of behavior analytic services. Specifically, I took 5 graduate level courses; 1500 hours of supervised practicum; passed a certification exam and am required to attain 32 continuing education credits in behavior analytic service provision every 2 years to maintain certification. These qualifications and ongoing professional development in behavior analysis are not required by SLPs. In summary, I oppose HB 5537, Section 42, 6 as it will negatively impact consumers of applied behavior analytic services.

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