

Testimony on SB 471: AAC Mental and Behavioral Health Services
Public Health Committee
March 19, 2014

Submitted By: Kathleen Callahan

As a current student, studying to work in the field of addiction counseling, I feel compelled to register my concerns about Section 2 (C) of SB 471. I learned of the passage of the 2013 Licensure Law and appreciate the movement toward professionalism, with substance use disorder counseling aligning with other behavior health and counseling disciplines. The level of performance I should be required to provide and clients should come to expect are covered in competency areas that define the scope of my specialization.

Section 2 (C) of the bill has the effect of reversing this legislation that ensured individuals seeking to attain a LADC have a degree in a counseling related field. Section 2 (C) creates a grandfathering provision of “another subject approved by the commissioner, provided the semester hours in a subject other than counseling or a counseling-related subject were completed or in progress on or before July 1, 2013”. My concerns with this grandfathering clauses are that this allows someone to qualify for the LADC with a non-counseling degree and it has no expiration date, weakening and jeopardizing the credential.

I believe my responsibility as an addiction counseling professional is to attain appropriate education, training, and experience in the field - directly related to the license, with continuing education in the field - keeping me current and aware of new advances and evidence-based practices. As a student member of the Connecticut Association of Addiction Professionals (CAAP), I stand with them in calling **for deletion and removal of Section 2 (C) of SB 471.**

Respectfully submitted,

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