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Dear Members of the Connecticut State Public Health Committee:

As an ASHA certified speech and language pathologist, as well as a board certified behavior analyst, I am writing to **express my opposition to Bill HB 5537 section 42 (6)**. As a constituent who holds both certifications as well as licensure by the State Department of Health and State Department of Education, I am uniquely suited to address this issue and its potential repercussions.

It has been my privilege to offer professional development opportunities to many state speech pathologists that provide intervention for students with autism. When surveying my audience, I typically ask attendees to indicate **whether applied behavior analysis was covered in their required coursework** in graduate school. I have never seen a hand raised in response. Follow up queries include **whether they have engaged in post-graduate course work** in applied behavior analysis, and based on their current knowledge, **if they would judge themselves to have a basic understanding of behavior analytic principles and practice**. Few if any participants have responded in the affirmative.

Speaking from personal experience as a speech and language pathologist, I assure this committee that the ability to provide behavior analytic services was not within **my scope of practice (see attached)** prior to post-graduate training to obtain my certification as a board certified behavior analyst. Rest assured, I would not have claimed expertise in ABA, as it would have been a **violation of the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) code of ethics. (See attached: Principle of Ethic II, Item B)**

I would suggest that it is not only the public that may be harmed if this committee goes forward with a house bill that includes the section of concern. In addition, any ASHA certified speech and language pathologist that, based on this law, provides ABA services without appropriate background, will be in jeopardy of losing their ASHA certification.

I urge this committee to **eliminate Bill HB 5537 section 42 (6)**, in order to assure that residents of this state are provided with therapeutic services, delivered by appropriately trained professionals, be it a behavior analyst or speech-language pathologist.

Sincerely,

Arlene Dworkin Kaye, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCBA