

Christina Ayoub HB 5537

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to oppose the bill (HB 5537) which has been raised before the Department of Health. This bill expands the scope of practice for Speech and Language Pathologists to include provision of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of this profession. SLP's receive no substantive ABA training or field experience as part of their requirements to become an SLP.

In addition, there is a requirement in Connecticut (Public Act 11-209) that any profession must first submit a request to the Department of Public Health for a Scope of Practice Review prior to submitting legislation to revise an existing scope of practice which should have been submitted prior to proposing this expansion of an SLP's existing scope of practice. According to the Public Health Department Records, no submission or review of an expanded SLP scope of practice was conducted prior to this proposed legislation.

SLP's do many good things for people and I greatly appreciate their help and support when collaborating with them with the students I work with, but this profession is not interchangeable with provision of behavior analytic services.

SLP's and Behavior Analysts each have our own areas of training and expertise, and a defined scope of practice that is derived from that training, as well as by state laws. Please help protect consumers of ABA services, and the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts and other professionals who are trained, and who do already have ABA within this scope of practice.

A hearing on this proposed legislation is scheduled for this coming Friday, March 14th at 10:30 am at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. I am requesting that the members of the Public Health Committee take into account the concerns stated above and work to protect all ABA consumers.

Thank you for your help,

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