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Opposition to HB 5537, Section 42 [6]

As a practicing Lead ABA therapist, I recognize and support the need for Speech and Language Pathologists in the field of education; however, I strongly oppose expanding the scope of practice of Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP's) to include provision of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) within Connecticut.

Expanding the scope of practice of SLP's would negatively impact consumers of ABA services for a number of reasons. SLP's are not required to take classes in behavior analysis, thus, expanding their scope of practice would have undoubtable risks. All credited Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) are educated in researched based, data driven practices that are put in place to best treat consumers receiving ABA services. BCBAs are also held to ethical guidelines that further protect clients. Without this education and understanding of ABA principals, consumers are at risk. Expanding of an SLP's scope could also negatively impact Board Certified Behavior Analysts and School Psychologists

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Kathleen R. Bevivino
Lead ABA therapist

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