

To the Committee/whom it may concern,

I, Leah R. Emmons of 76 Gorman Road Unit #11 Brooklyn, CT 06234 I am submitting this electronic written testimony to oppose Bill number HB 5537, specifically Section 42 [6]. I oppose this Bill because Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a treatment that is outside the scope of practice of Speech and Language Pathologists. Therefore, it would be unethical for these professionals to provide clients with such services. Furthermore, Speech and Language Pathologists are not required to complete any training that is of behavior analytic nature. Therefore, consumers of their services could be adversely impacted if this bill were passed. Behavior analysts receive rigorous, specific training and follow guidelines set forth by the BACB. These guidelines are not required to be followed by SLP's. Other professions could be negatively impacted by this change. Such professions include (but are not limited to) Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and School Psychologists. In accordance with Public Act 11-209, An Act Concerning the Department of Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professionals any possible extensions to the practices of SLP's scope of practice is required to be reviewed first. It would be unethical for this bill to be passed as the BACB states that professionals shall not practice outside their area of expertise. Speech and Language Pathologists would be doing just that.

Thank you,

Leah R. Emmons