

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lisa Phung. I live at 107 Oliver Road, Manchester CT. I am opposed to Bill HB 5537, Section 42 [6].

I am currently a licensed and practicing speech-language pathologist in Connecticut who is also currently taking courses to obtain a graduate certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. I am opposed to the recent bill that has been raised (HB 5537 section 42 [6]) before the Department of Public Health that would expand the scope of practice of Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP's) to include provision of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) within Connecticut.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Scope of Practice, speech pathologist “address typical and atypical communication and swallowing in the areas the areas of speech sound production, resonance, voice, fluency, language, cognition, feeding and swallowing” (<http://www.asha.org/policy/SP2007-00283.htm#sec1.2>).

According to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, “professionals in behavior analyst engage in comprehensive and use of principals in learning, including operant and respondent conditioning in order address behavioral needs” (<http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=2>).

Speech language pathology and behavior analysis are two different professions that have two different scopes of practices. The reason I decided to take courses to get my graduate certificate in ABA was because the training and education I received as a speech pathologist did not consist of identifying the function of behavior, creating an intervention plan, and implementing one amongst many other topics. There can be many risks that can occur when SLPs practice outside their training. I’m taking my last course in ABA and I feel that these courses were necessary in order for me to ethically and professionally work in the area of speech language and behavior analysis. I feel that a speech pathologist certified in Behavior Analysis from an approved program can provide ABA.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Phung