

Sharon Silbo
HB 5537

My name is Sharon Silbo, I reside in Wethersfield and I am a proud parent of an autistic 7 year old named James. I vehemently OPPOSE HB 5537, section 6 for the following reasons:

The Speech Language Pathologist my son currently works with is barely meeting his minimum requirements for Speech let alone adding ABA to the SLP's program work with my son which she has absolutely no experience teaching ABA would be an insult and a regression in his programming. PLEASE, I BEG YOU NOT TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION. IT MAKES NO SENSE AND WILL ONLY HARM ANY PROGRESS MADE BY OUR CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM IN CT. AREN'T THEIR LIVES HARD ENOUGH ALREADY!

Futhermore,

ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of Speech Language Pathologists.

Speech Language Pathologists are not required to take any classes in behavior analysis, nor do they have any training or experience requirements related to the provision of behavior analytic services as part of their training to become SLP's.

Consumers of ABA services would be negatively impacted by this modification to an SLP's scope of practice.

Behavior Analysis and the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts has been defined in existing CT legislation, and this expansion of an SLP's scope of practice would negatively impact other professionals including but not limited to Board Certified Behavior Analysts and School Psychologists.

Any proposed expansion of an SLP's scope of practice must first be reviewed 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.

Current SLP Scope of Practice Statement:

(1) "The practice of speech and language pathology" means the application of principles, methods and procedures for the measurement, testing, diagnosis, prediction, counseling or instruction relating to the development and disorders of speech, voice or language or feeding and swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions for the purpose of diagnosing, preventing, treating, ameliorating or modifying such disorders and conditions in individuals or groups of individuals.