



***Connecticut Association of School Psychologists***  
***An affiliate of the National Association of School Psychologists***

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Public Health Committee  
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Connecticut has an opportunity to join a small group of states who grant psychologists with a Masters' Degree [or more] the opportunity to be licensed. House Bill 05521 is this opportunity however clarification and understanding of the qualifications and scope of practice is needed.

The Connecticut Association of School Psychologists [CASP], a professional organization representing school-employed psychologists, supports the idea of licensure for Master-level psychologists. Many school psychologists receive a Masters or Specialist degree and are certified by the State Department of Education, which limits the scope of practice to the school setting. Allowing for school psychologists to obtain licensure will afford these practitioners a variety of opportunities to support families and children and can assist districts access additional federal funds associated with Medicaid billing which will also support programming for children in their school communities. School psychologists are highly qualified professionals with in depth knowledge of development, learning and mental health whose focus is on the good of children. We work with families and school-based teams to ensure that children are able to function at school, home and in their communities. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act lists school psychologists in the definition of 'mental health service professional' further supporting that we are key to providing educationally-based services to children.

After reviewing the proposed bill, CASP strongly feels the need for clarification of training and scope of practice for professionals providing educationally-based mental health services in the schools. In regards to education, any psychologist who works in schools must meet the state criteria for certification as a school psychologist and must demonstrate successful completion of coursework in assessment, counseling and consultation. Successful completion of an internship as part of a school psychology program and post-graduate clinical supervision should also be a requirement for licensure for those who wish to practice in schools. School psychologists are not seeking to treat serious, chronic mental illness [such as schizophrenia], prescribe and administer medication or engage in dual setting practice [offering private services to a child where the psychologist is employed].

Respectfully submitted by Karla N. Vázquez, Psy.S., Certified School Psychologist  
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