

HB 5521

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I would like to submit my testimony on HB 5521 for your consideration.

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I oppose HB 5521, for the following reasons:

- 1) Both in Connecticut and on a national level, the term "psychologist" is understood to mean someone with doctoral level training.
- 2) Drastically reducing the qualifications necessary to be considered a psychologist would undermine professional standards designed to inform and protect the public. Two years of graduate education and training is simply not comparable to five plus years.
- 3) Master's level clinicians are already able to become licensed in Connecticut as "Licensed Professional Counselors" (LPC's). They are able to practice without needing to represent themselves as psychologists.
- 4) This bill does not affect school psychologists, as they are under the authority of the Department of Education.

For each of these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 5521.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Licensed Psychologist