

HB 5521

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

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521, for the following 3 reasons:

- 1) The term “psychologist” reflects doctoral level providers (both in Connecticut and on a national level);
- 2) Allowing licensure of master’s level psychologists would create public confusion regarding provider education and training; and,
- 3) Master’s level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as “Licensed Professional Counselors” (LPC’s).
- 4) School psychologists are master's level, but they only operate in the school systems and are under the authority of the Department of Education.

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

To further exemplify this point: just yesterday I met an individual who apparently has a master’s degree in psychology and reported use of the psychotherapeutic technique Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) with clients who have an acquired brain injury (ABI). Without knowing the specifics, I question whether this may be misuse of clinical practice for multiple reasons (e.g., he is not in the position to diagnose someone with a trauma disorder, inadequate training, etc.). I become concerned for the unknowing public’s welfare as most individuals do not understand the copious types of mental health professionals let alone if the term “psychologist” becomes open to those with just a master’s degree.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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