



CONNECTICUT
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

HB 5521: AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSURE OF MASTER'S LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS

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

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut and the current President of the Connecticut Psychological Association, I would like to express my **strong opposition to HB 5521**.

Allowing licensure of master's level psychologists would erode the quality of care for clients seeking the level of training and expertise expected from a "psychologist." Given the historical and current definition of psychologists as doctoral-level providers, this would be confusing and potentially harmful for clients believing that they are receiving services at par with what has been provided by psychologists before and across the country.

Services provided by psychologists, such as neuropsychological assessments and diagnostic evaluations of psychiatric conditions, require doctoral level training and experience. The necessary knowledge to competently conduct these activities cannot be attained within the two years of education typically comprising a master's level program. Licensure of a master's level psychologist would lead to public confusion about which providers are qualified to perform such evaluations, and could potentially lead to a violation of psychologist's scope of practice, by creating an assumption that such individuals hold the necessary expertise to practice without the guidance and supervision of an appropriately trained doctoral level practitioner.

In concern for the potential deleterious effects on the quality of the mental health care received by the citizens of this state, I urge you to oppose HB 5521.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mikaru Shichi Lasher, Ph.D.

President

Connecticut Psychological Association