

Maria Foss-Rand
Testimony before the Public Health Committee
March 18, 2015

S.B. 1089 Testimony

Esteemed members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Maria Foss-Rand and I am a Connecticut Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

I work as a psychotherapist/clinician at a large public mental health facility alongside a number of LPCs. This intensive outpatient agency treats very complex and challenging drug and alcohol-dependent clients who are primarily Medicaid-reimbursed. As a masters level, licensed mental health professional, I have serious concerns about S.B. 1089.

My concerns are as follows:

As LPCs, our training focuses exclusively on the provision of psychotherapy and counseling. We are therefore specialists in the treatment of mental and emotional disorders. Because of this, we are currently in the trenches doing significant good in the Connecticut mental health treatment community.

All LPCs must have master's degrees, 60 credit hours of graduate study in counseling, and 3,000 hours post-masters experience under supervision. They must pass a national licensing exam and follow the standards of the Department of Public Health. The statutes that allow LPCs to practice independently mirror the rights and responsibilities granted to other master's level mental health practitioners, including LCSWs and LMFTs.

As an LPC, I already serve clients who are overlooked in society and lack privilege. The service that I and other LPCs provide is invaluable to my agency as well as many other public and non-profit mental health institutions. By leaving LPCs out of this legislation, a large group of potential practitioners will not have strong incentive to work in underserved areas. I therefore urge the committee to consider including LPCs in this critical legislation.

Respectfully,

Maria Foss-Rand, MPA, MS, LPC
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