



February 16, 2015

Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy and Members of the Committee on Veteran's Affairs;

As Past President and current Legislative Committee member of the Connecticut Psychological Association I am herein testifying **in opposition of RB 6780 An Act Requiring Certain Health Care Professional to Complete Continuing Education Requirements Related to Veterans and Family Members of Veterans.**

Lines # 147 – 176 refer to Psychologists (Section 4, Subsection (b), of Section 20-191c of the General Statutes.

While CPA is very supportive of continuing education for psychologists, and strongly supported the implementation of CEU requirements for psychologist licensure that went into effect last October, we do not support the implementation of specialty area CEU requirements.

As doctoral level providers, psychologist's education and training includes a minimum of 4 years of academic and clinical work, as well as a one-year full-time pre-doctoral internship. Licensure in Connecticut requires an additional one-year full-time post-doctoral fellowship. All of this clinical training is under the direction of at least one licensed psychologist supervisor. Throughout their training, psychologists learn about trauma, PTSD, and family interventions. If a psychologist intends to work with a large veteran population, that psychologist has an obligation to continue their education in this area. At the same time, clinicians who do not work with veterans and do not feel comfortable with their level of expertise would have an ethical obligation to refer out to another provider, as with any particular population or disorder. We cannot reasonably expect every psychologist to receive training in every specialty area, particularly when many of the areas are not relevant to the psychologist's practice.

On behalf of the Connecticut Psychological Association, I urge you therefore to oppose **RB 6780 An Act Requiring Certain Health Care Professional to Complete Continuing Education Requirements Related to Veterans and Family Members of Veterans.**

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Bunk, Ph.D.