

## **HB 5521**

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

I would like to submit the following testimony on HB 5521.

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521, for the following 4 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) This bill does not impact school psychologists, as they are under the authority of the Department of Education.

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

The training for a Ph.D. in Psychology is much lengthier and much more in depth than the training for a Masters Degree. There is really no comparison. These two degrees do not belong under the same licensing title. Many consumers will not realize the impact of the difference in degrees and will not be able to make fully informed decisions when seeking mental health care for themselves and their families.

The licensure of providers with a Masters Degree would also put Connecticut out of synch with the rest of the country, and not in a way that is progressive or favorable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amy E. Goldfarb, Ph.D.  
Psychologist

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