

HB 5521

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

I am currently Licensed as a Professional Counselor in the State of Connecticut and am also a doctoral candidate in psychology. I made the conscious decision to return to school in order to expand my knowledge and practice in the field of psychology and advanced my career from that as a Licensed Professional Counselor to a Licensed Clinical Psychologist. In the mental health profession, a Psychologist is considered to be an individual who currently possesses a doctorate in psychology. I strongly oppose HB 5521 for this reason. Furthermore, master's level clinician's in the State of Connecticut currently have the option (depending on degree) to enter a two year program and become licensed as : Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, all these disciplines and credentials have specializations which make them extremely valuable as mental health providers in the State of Connecticut and across the country. I believe the creation of a Master's Level Psychologist would serve to confuse and limit the understanding of the roles of these specific credentials and incorrectly change the current nationally understood meaning of who a Psychologist is and their role as a mental health provider.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Friar, MA LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Doctoral Candidate in Clinical Psychology