

Please find my testimony on HB 6267 below:

RE 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 PhD-level Psychologist in New York and Ontario and as someone who is from Connecticut, with a family residence still there and two licensed PhD-level psychologist CT parents as well as multiple licensed psychologist friends and colleagues in CT, I am planning on returning there in the near future to live and thus am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521, for the following 3 reasons:

- 1) The term "psychologist" reflects doctoral level providers (both in Connecticut and on a North American level)--postdoctoral training is largely required as the new standard of care for licensure--not even ending the PhD;
- 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) School psychologists are master's level, but they only operate in the school systems and are under the authority of the Department of Education.

For each of these reasons, I am urging you to oppose HB 5521. I did not train for 11 years to get my PhD and postdoctoral specialist qualifications and accrue \$60,000+ dollars in debt to be in nonsensical competition with MA-level providers with an entirely different level of training and education when I return to my home state. I expect Connecticut to progress and move forward, and not to move backwards. The only states and provinces that currently license MA providers as Psychologists are widely known as behind both the times and standards in the health care industry and it is certainly not the general direction that North American psychology licensure has chosen. It has been well over a decade since most states and provinces abandoned MA-licensure qualifications, to keep up with increasingly qualified practitioners and the increasingly specialized needs of the population. Increasingly, school psychologists in other states and provinces won't even be licensed the MA-level--many already aren't.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. This would greatly impact my decision to ever return to Connecticut and practice.

Dominique Morisano, PhD

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