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Date: February 18, 2015 at 5:36:11 AM EST

To: "phctestmony@cga.ct.gov" <phctestmony@cga.ct.gov>

Subject: Oppose HB 5521

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

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in opposition to HB5521 for the following reasons:

1. The term "psychologist" reflects and should reflect doctoral level providers, both in Connecticut and nationally, thus helping to insure that the care given to individuals and families by psychologists is of the highest level possible, similar to dentists, podiatrists, and physicians.
2. I have both masters' level training and doctoral training and I can tell you that my doctoral training took my professionalism and what I can offer the public to a much higher level;
3. Allowing master's level psychologists would create public confusion regarding provider education and training, as well as standards of care;
4. Master's level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as "Licensed Professional Counselors";
5. This bill does not impact school psychologists.

For each of these reasons I am urging you to oppose HB5521. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Donald H. Westerberg, Ph.D.
CT Licensed Psychologist