

Katharine N. Woods, M.S., D.O.  
HB 5521

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

As a Licensed Physician and Board Certified Psychiatrist who works closely with other mental health providers of many levels and types of training in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521, for the following 4 reasons:

- 1) The term "psychologist" is understood currently both within the field and to the general public to reflect 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;
- 3) Doctorate and Master's level providers are NOT interchangeable in terms of their knowledge, skills, or abilities; and,
- 4.) Master's level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as "Licensed Professional Counselors" (LPC's).
- 5) 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Katharine N. Woods, M.S., D.O.  
Psychiatrist