

Kenneth Schwarz  
To the Public Health Committee

Attached is my testimony on HB 5521

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

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.
- 5) Would the public be protected if a physician was licensed to practice medicine before he/she finished the doctoral degree? The same holds true for a psychologist. A licensed psychologist in Connecticut and throughout the nation signifies that the psychologist like the physician has completed the training and education at the doctoral level and is competent to practice psychology.

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

Respectfully submitted  
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