

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 reasons:

1) The term "psychologist" reflects doctoral level providers (both in Connecticut and on a national level). Currently, consumers in our state can be assured that all clinicians operating under a CT license of Psychologist have met the state's stringent requirements of graduating from an APA accredited graduate program, APA accredited internship program and have completed further training on the post-doctoral level. The intense training in psychotherapy and psychopathology can be analogous to the intense medical training physicians must undergo to practice. Allowing licensure of master's level psychologists would create public confusion regarding provider education and training. It would be similar to allowing a graduate of medical school to practice as a physician without the completion of residency. There is a significant difference in psychological training between Master's level and Doctoral level.

2) Master's level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as "Licensed Professional Counselors" (LPC's).

3) This bill does not impact school psychologists, who can obtain a license at the master's level, 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.

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