

Michael Haymes, PhD
Child and Family Solutions
Phone: 860-632-1296 ext.200
Fax: 860-635-2696
MHappointments@mindspring.com

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

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, (#749) I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521, for the following reasons:

Who wants this to pass?

THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY WOULD LIKE MOST TO OBSCURE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MASTERS AND DOCTORAL LEVELS OF PRACTICING PROVIDERS – TO JUSTIFY REDUCING PAYMENT TO DOCTORAL LEVEL PROVIDERS. ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FLOATING AND REFLOATING THIS BILL???

- 1) The term “psychologist,” represents that the individual (provider/consultant, researcher or author) has earned a doctorate degree in a field of psychology related to what they are doing professionally. The difference in schooling and training between the doctoral and masters levels, reflects as many more years of training as that between an RN and an MD.
- 2) The term psychologist is understood nationally and internationally to reflect an exceedingly high standard of scholarship and expertise in practice.
- 3) The courts in Connecticut and on a national level, understand the term to reflect that a psychologist is held to standards of national associations that have defined, and that monitor, what a doctoral level psychologist represents as opinion or fact and how they represent it.
- 4) Allowing licensure of master’s level psychologists would create public confusion regarding provider education and training (again, who wants this?).
- 5) Master’s level clinicians, with some training in psychology, are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as “Licensed Professional Counselors” (LPC’s), and or as School Psychologists.

This bill in no way serves the people of Connecticut. Rather, it will foster confusion and, directly and indirectly, diminish the status and the financial

well-being of psychologists in Connecticut. It will do harm to individuals, without helping anyone.

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

Thank you for considering the public trust that inheres in your positions, and for your time and thoughtful consideration of these issues.

Michael Haymes, Ph.D.
Lic. 749