

**HB 5521**

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

**As a licensed psychologist with both MA and PhD degrees, who has been practicing in Connecticut for over 30 years, and a former Psychology Department Director at Silver Hill, one of our major Connecticut psychiatric hospitals, I am writing to express opposition to HB 5521 for several reasons.**

**The term “psychologist” currently and historically reflects a doctoral level professional both in Connecticut and on a national level. There is a profound and significant difference in training, scholarship and experience leading to a doctorate in psychology versus a master's degree.**

**Allowing licensure of master's level psychologists would create public confusion regarding mental health provider education and training. There is a public trust in what "psychologist" means in terms of professional background, knowledge and skill. Many patients who seek my services state specifically and categorically that they want to see only a psychologist because of what that professional title means and the level of education and experience it ensures.**

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

**School psychologists are master's level, but they only operate in the school systems and are under the authority of the Department of Education.**

**I sincerely hope you will consider these points, and I urge you to oppose HB 5521.**

**Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact me if I may provide any additional information.**

**Sincerely,**

Nancy L. Bronson, PhD  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
76 Haviland Court  
Stamford, CT 06903  
203-329-0005