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State Senator Marilyn Moore  
Public Health Committee  
Capitol Office  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

February 20, 2015

Dear Senator Moore:

I am a resident of the 22<sup>nd</sup> district and am a psychologist in private practice in Westport for nearly 15 years. I recently submitted written testimony and also testified today before the Public Health Committee regarding HB 6267. I am writing here regarding another matter discussed today at the Committee, which was regarding **HB 5521** (An Act Requiring Licensure of Master's-Level Psychologists).

I am greatly opposed to such a licensing designation for a number of reasons. The great level of post high school education/training (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.) and pre-doctoral and post-doctoral internships (fellowships) required to reach the point to be able to sit for national and state licensing examination for the designation of "Psychologist" contributes to the keen ability of those in my profession to competently and ethically conduct psychological evaluations, provide psychotherapy, and diagnose mental illness.

As well, it would be extremely difficult to the public at large to quickly decipher the numerous distinctions between professionals with the designation "Psychologist" in their title and thus would contribute to confusion for members of the public and to a diminishment of the "Psychologist" title I and so many before me have worked so hard to maintain in such generally high esteem and excellent regard.

Additionally, there already exists in Connecticut statute a means for Master's level clinicians to obtain licensure, which is via the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) designation.

In summary, I believe it would be extremely unwise and unnecessary to create a designation of Master's-Level Psychologists. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoints on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ralph P. Balducci