

Sherri L. Owitz, Psy.D  
HB 5521

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

As a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521. Please consider my testimony.

In our state and across the nation, in order to be referred to as a "psychologist" one must have earned a doctorate. Doctoral level training is much more extensive in terms of length of academic years and direct clinical supervised work. The University where I earned my doctorate also provided a master's degree in clinical psychology. It was very clear that the master's program was much less rigorous and the admission requirements for that program were not nearly as stringent as they were for those entering the doctoral program.

The general public may find it difficult to discern the differences in the quality of care they would receive if the term psychologist applies to providers with either a master's or doctorate degree. Currently master's level clinicians are designated as "licensed professional counselors." Their training is not on par with doctoral level clinicians.

I ask that you also oppose HB 5521 in order to protect the interests of our state residents. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Sherri L. Owitz, Psy.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist