



Testimony of
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Public Health Committee
February 20, 2015

***HB 5521 AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSURE OF MASTER'S-LEVEL
PSYCHOLOGISTS***

My name is Steve McKeever and I am First Vice President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation of local unions representing nearly 30,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel. Among our members are school psychologists. It is on their behalf that I submit this testimony on HB 5521, An Act Requiring Licensure of Master's Level Psychologists.

Although HB 5521 does not explicitly include school psychologists, it also does not exclude them. As written, this bill could place additional minimum qualifications on valuable members of school communities that are already in short supply. In order to be employed in a school district, school psychologists already must be certified by the State Department of Education. Licensing them through the Department of Public Health would be duplicative and burdensome.

As part of their certification, school psychologists are required to complete 18 hours of professional development each year. HB 5521 would require them to attend an additional seven hours. Who would provide that professional development and at what cost? Will school districts be required to deliver additional training to psychologists with already scarce resources? How will school psychologists serve students if they are already stretched so thin?

On behalf of our members, I urge you to explicitly exempt school psychologists from this bill. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.