

HB 5521

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

As a licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521, for the following reasons:

- The term “Psychologist” is a designation that is associated with education and training through to the doctoral level. The educational and training requirements are more extensive, and the scope of competencies (particularly diagnostic evaluation competencies) is broader for Psychologists at the PhD or PsyD level.
- Although nationally and within Connecticut there is a recognized role for sub-doctoral level mental health professionals, use of the title “Psychologist” to refer to licensed mental health providers with a terminal Master’s degree level of education / training will likely contribute to public confusion about the qualifications and credentials of Psychologists and other mental health professionals. Licensing Master’s level clinicians as “Psychologists” would unnecessarily conflate the two professions, particularly when considered in the context of multiple other designations for licensed mental health providers in Connecticut (e.g., Psychiatrist; Psychologist, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse / Nurse Practitioner; Clinical Social Worker; Licensed Professional Counselor; Marriage and Family Therapist).
- Master’s level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as “Licensed Professional Counselors” (LPC’s), a title which is commensurate with their education / training and primary professional activities.
- This bill does not impact school psychologists, who are regulated under the authority of the Department of Education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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