

Please consider my testimony on HB5521:

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

As a resident of CT and a practicing doctoral level Licensed Psychologist for over 25 years, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521 for the following reasons:

1. The term "psychologist" has traditionally referred to doctoral level psychologists--and not master level psychologists--on both the state and national levels.
2. There is considerable difference in the clinical training and expertise of doctoral level and master level therapists (for example, doctoral programs are typically four to five years post college; master programs are typically only two and sometimes one year post college).
3. The public, which is already considerably confused about the difference between psychologists and psychiatrists, would be further confused by lumping together master and doctoral level therapists, which can result in the consumer not obtaining the level of professional expertise and care they are looking for
4. Master level clinicians are already able to become licensed in CT (as "Licensed Professional Counselors")
5. School psychologists are an exception: they do become licensed at the master level, but they work exclusively in schools--not in hospitals, agencies, community care--and are under the separate authority of the Dept of Education.

For all of these reasons, I hope you will oppose HB 5521.

Thank you for your consideration.

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