

*Testimony in Opposition of H.B. H.B. 5512*

*An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Certain Communications*

*Made To a Social Worker in a Family Law Matter Involving the Custody of a Child*

Stephanie Luczak, UConn MSW student

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To Senator Kissel, Senator Doyle, Representative Tong, Representative Rebinbas, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Stephanie Luczak and I am an advanced year Master in Social Work student at the University of Connecticut. I am submitting testimony in opposition of H.B. 5512 An Act Concerning The Disclosure Of Certain Communications Made To A Social Worker In A Family Law Matter Involving The Custody Of A Child. I am testifying on behalf of myself as a social worker, and this testimony does not represent the opinion of Connecticut Voices for Children where I am currently completing my practicum as a social work policy intern.

As a social worker, confidentiality is the bedrock of our treatment and best practice of client confidentiality is outlined in the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. The current law, which has not been altered since 1992, already allows for disclosure of information when there is an imminent risk to oneself or others. This language is consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics and aligns with social work values. The new language added to this bill is vague and can open up disclosure in any case where a person has a mental health condition.

The trusting relationship between the social worker and the client is a valued process that involves empathy, acceptance and understanding, as well as confidentiality. If new language in Section B is passed, this can open up disclosure in **any** case where a person has a mental health condition. This may diminish and jeopardize the trusting relationship in which clients may not choose to share information if they think it will be disclosed without consent.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I can be reached at [stephanie.luczak@uconn.edu](mailto:stephanie.luczak@uconn.edu).

Respectfully,

Stephanie Luczak