

December 2nd, 2024

Dear Representative,

I am a licensed psychologist in the state of Michigan, as well as, someone who holds a terminal master's degree in psychology (and former TLLP) and then returned back to school to get a PhD to become an LP in the state of MI. I am writing to you today to request that you do not support House Bill 5785 as it is written. As the bill is written, after two years master level/limited license psychologists will become functionally equivalent in scope of practice as doctoral level licensed psychologists.

The American Psychological Association (APA) has historically considered the doctoral degree as the terminal degree to practice psychology. There are currently no nationally accredited standards for the training of master's level psychology. House Bill 5785 as it is written would create a functionally equivalent license for the LLP as the LP after significantly less training and practice. Currently, in the State of Michigan there are no scope of practice differences between limited licensed psychologists (Master's Degree) and licensed psychologists (Doctoral Degree), outside of Master's Level/LLP's requirement to have ongoing clinical supervision. HB 5785 will disenfranchise those who have pursued a doctoral degree in psychology to practice psychology without limit. Your non-support of HB 5785 as it is written will not harm master's level psychology/LLP's as they will be able to continue to practice as outlined in Michigan law.

The APA is currently in the process of officially making psychology a multitiered profession:

<https://www.apaservices.org/practice/ce/faq-psychology-multitiered-profession> . The APA is also in the process of creating accreditation for master's level psychology training programs: <https://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/newsletter/2020/03/masters-accreditation> . More information regarding the APA's progress on this matter can be found here: <https://accreditation.apa.org/about-coa/masters-accreditation> .

I urge you not to support HB 5785 as it is written, as it is premature and will create no distinction in practice between doctoral level licensed psychologists and master's level limited licenses after two years of supervision. I suggest you wait for the American Psychological Association to help determine scope of practice differences between master's level and doctoral level psychology practitioners. This will include standards of competence, training, and supervision. At that time, I believe that the State of Michigan will be better prepared to revise law, determine scope of practice, as well as protect the public who is seeking mental health services.

Thank you for your consideration,

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