

Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee
Nov. 30, 2022
Opponent Testimony on HB 509
Robyn Coleman

Chairman Johnson and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 509. My name is Robyn Coleman. I would like to discuss the proposed bill and how it will impact my practice. I hold a board of education license to work in a public setting. I work for Cincinnati Public Schools as a Culturally Responsive Psychologist. In order to make additional income in the private sector, I am one of a group of practitioners who chose to obtain the additional license for doing so. Please see the description of the differences per the Ohio School Psychologist Association Website:

Ohio's school psychological practice licensure occurs at two levels and allows practice at both the specialist level of training or the doctoral level. The majority of school psychologist practitioners in Ohio are simply licensed through the Ohio Department of Education, which requires training in a NASP approved program and qualifying Praxis score (you can read more <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Apply-for-Certificate-License/Pupil-Services-Licenses>). With an Ohio Department of Education school psychologist license, you are exempted from the State Board of Psychology requirement to have a psychological practice license and are permitted to be employed in any Ohio public school system with your scope of practice reflecting the expected areas of practice for a school-based school psychologist. However, you are not permitted to engage in any private or agency practice with exclusively holding the Ohio Department of Education license; for work in those venues, you need a **State Board of Psychology license**.

In Ohio, psychology licensure is two-tiers, called either a "general psychologist" or "school psychologist" license. The requirement for a general psychologist license is an earned doctoral degree from an APA or CPA accredited program, supervised pre/post-doctoral experience, a qualifying score on the EPPP, and an Ohio specific juris (law) exam (more information <http://psychology.ohio.gov/License-Certificate-Holders/Psychologist>). There are no exemptions for "grandfathering" in general psychology licensure candidates with other degrees in related psychology fields or non APA/CPA programs. This general psychologist licensure is the practice license that any doctoral level psychologist would hold who wishes to practice psychology in Ohio, regardless of any advanced certifications they may also hold (e.g. ABPP).

The second tier of State Board of Psychology license is called "school psychologist" and again requires a NASP or APA approved specialist or doctoral degree in school psychology and qualifying score on the Praxis plus an Ohio school psychologist juris exam (more information <http://psychology.ohio.gov/Applicants/School-Psychologist>). **This level of license allows you to independently practice school psychology in private or agency level practice, although your practice is specifically restricted to school psychology.**

Across the practice domains, a proportion of Ohio school psychologists have elected to earn the State Board of Psychology school psychologist license to allow them to engage in private or other outside of public education practice work.

Having the opportunity to practice privately has not only afforded my extra income, it has benefited the community tremendously. I am one of very few people who have the skillset to diagnose autism in children over 12 years of age. Our local hospital will not complete evaluations for this population due to their measure of what is considered immediate need. I am able to assess older and marginalized populations accurately. I am also one of the only people in the area with expertise in assessing

emergent bilingual and multilingual persons for disabilities. I am able to consult with other districts and help them improve their practices in this and other areas. Finally, I frequently conduct Independent Educational Evaluations for school districts as a result of a disagreement.

It is very important that we continue to maintain the separate license that allows for private work due to these and many other reasons. We are already in a shortage of qualified practitioners nationwide. The impact we are able to make in the private setting certainly makes a dent to support our public work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robyn Coleman
School Psychologist