

Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee
Nov. 30, 2022
Opponent Testimony on HB 509
[JAMILAH MOGHARBEL]

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 Jamilah Mogharbel. I have been a practicing school psychologist for a few years now, licensed through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), and recently obtained my independent license in order to expand my opportunities for practice in hopes of having a more positive impact on our community. Having the school psychologist license through the Ohio Board of Psychology affords many allowances for practice that the ODE license does not, including the scope of our practice, the populations we serve, and our roles and functions as practitioners.

Division E of Section 4732.01 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) specifies the definition of the “practice of school psychology” for holders of a license through the Ohio Board of Psychology. It states that such holders can render services to “individuals, groups, organizations, or the public”. Therefore, in addition to being able to practice in private schools and public schools as with the ODE license, an independent license allows school psychologists to practice in other settings *without* the supervision of a licensed psychologist including, but not limited to, hospitals, private practice clinics, and other organizations.

Under the same division, it is also mentioned that school psychologists licensed through the Ohio Board of Psychology can diagnose [Division E (1)] and provide “intervention services, including counseling, for children or adults” [Division E (2)]. An ODE license does not allow school psychologists to provide diagnoses or intervention services to adults.

Finally, being independently licensed allows for the supervision of other school psychologist trainees and/or practitioners in settings other than school settings, something which is not possible with an ODE license. This increase in training opportunities increases the scope of practice and expertise of other trainees and/or practitioners.

I got into the field of school psychology as I am a passionate advocate of mental health, especially for youth and underprivileged communities. Our youth and overall community are in dire need of as much access to mental health professionals as possible, particularly given the rise of mental health problems over the past few years resulting from the repercussions of social and political turmoil and the COVID-19 pandemic. I have seen, firsthand, the dramatic rise in mental health problems in the populations with which I have been working. As a fervent advocate for those populations, I kindly implore you to reconsider the elimination of the independent school psychology license through the Ohio Board of Psychology.

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.