

Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee
Nov. 30, 2022
Opponent Testimony on HB 509 to the School Psychologist sections
Erin Hull

Dear 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 Erin Hull. I am currently a dual licensed Ohio school psychologist through both the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Board of Psychology. Like most Ohio school psychologists who graduated from Ohio school psychology university training programs approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), my master's degree and my educational specialist degree (which is two years beyond a master's) are both in school psychology not psychology.

I am begging you not to approve proposed HB 509, as you will be taking away school psychology positions and viable opportunities directly affecting the livelihood of Ohio school psychology practitioners who also hold an additional license through the Ohio Board of Psychology (outside of ODE licensure). The private Ohio Board of Psychology licensure for school psychologists is SEPARATE from the ODE school psychologist licensure. They are not one in the same for Ohio school psychologists. The additional school psychologist licensure through the Ohio Board of Psychology allows for school psychologists to work and serve school-aged children in private practice settings, or alternative mental health settings such as clinical or medical assessment or counseling settings (that are outside of the traditional school venue). **Without the ability for Ohio school psychologists to also obtain additional licensure (outside of ODE) through the Ohio Board of Psychology, there will be no way for Ohio school psychologists to have the needed licensure to practice in settings outside of a traditional school arena or serve the private mental health needs of school-aged children in Ohio outside of a school.**

Several hundred school psychologists, who have sought the advanced training needed to be licensed by the Ohio Board of Psychology, help fill the gap by working in private practice in communities around Ohio. Elimination of this important mental health resource will make the mental health provider shortage even deeper.

The Ohio Psychological Association (OPA), which represents more than 1,600 licensed psychologists and several hundred school psychologists and The Ohio School Psychologist Association, which represents over 700 members opposes the elimination of the private practice license for school psychologists and I do too.

I urge you not to support the elimination of the private practice license for school psychologists.

Thank you for your support,

Erin Hull, Ed.S., NCSP
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