L.L.P.'s - A view from a Licensed Psychologist

In Support of Bill 4549

A Bill to amend 1978 PA 368

About Me: Larry M. Friedberg, Ph.D.

- Former President of Michigan Psychological Association (2001)
  - Fellow (1994-present)
  - Member, Ethics Committee (2005-2015)
  - Chair, Insurance Committee (1996-1998), Member (1994-1998)
  - Chair, Communications Committee (2007-2009), Member (2005-2015)
  - Distinguished Psychologist, 1999
  - Beth Clark Service Award, 2007
- Adjunct Professor- Madonna University (2009-Present)
- Private Practice: Psychological Institutes of Michigan, PC (1998-present)
- Member: American Psychological Association, Society for Personality Assessment, Michigan Inter-professional Association for Marriage, Divorce, and the Family (President, 2007-2010)

What do Masters level (Limited License) Psychologists Do that Ph.D. Licensed psychologists Don't (or won't) Do?

- Serve underserved populations:
  - Work in clinics serving Medicaid population
  - Serve as therapists in Community Mental Health settings
  - Work as In-home therapists (infant mental health, Seriously Mentally Ill, ACT treatment), etc.
    - Sometimes a risky job
  - Provide substance abuse treatment
    - Drug Court
  - Veteran's Court
  - Hospital and Halfway Houses
  - Treat Prisoners and Parolees
- Serve rural populations (Many areas have a shortage of Ph.D.'s)
- Provide more affordable care
  - Ph.D.'s earn $100K+ salaries, LLP's $33K to $60 or $70K

My Perspectives on Bill 4549

- Big Effect of Revoking Licenses on 8/31/17 or 8/31/18
  - Patient Abandonment (Ethical Principle 4.08: "Psychologists do not abandon patients or clients.")
- Big Effect of Not passing Bill 4549
  - The numbers are actually frightening:
    - 60 est. therapists X 20 patients/week X 1.5 (half of patients seen every other week) X 4 (patients seen for an average of 3 months)= 7,200 patients and their families affected (abandoned). 3,600 if half pass the licensing exam.
  - Patient Economics: Who is going to fill the void (rural, CMH, prison, SA, Medicaid)?
  - Economics for the est. 60 persons affected?
    - $40-$50,000 to obtain Master's Degree
    - Costs of supervision: 8 years X 48 weeks/year X $70 a week for supervision= $27,000
    - Cost of Continuing Education
    - Cost of exam $750 (highest in related fields)
    - Cost of exam prep= $1000
    - Estimated 50-60 % pass rate for licensing exam by L.L.P.'s (70% for Ph.D.)
  - In the past, L.L.P. psychologists could retake the exam and continue to practice.

Additional Concerns Re: Current Licensing Law

- New Psychologists who started families after graduate school (especially women). New time limits and ending of extensions is not fair to them, nor to folks working on their Ph.D. who need to work to afford their education.
- New Psychologists who can't achieve 2000 hours in 18 months
  - It can take time to get a job
  - Many jobs are part-time
- Folks who can't afford to take and retake exam (e.g. folks making less than $40K a year and paying several thousand for supervision)
  - Cost of the exam: Time spent studying, plus exam fee
  - Test Preparation Courses cost $750-1500
- Perfectly good clinicians frequently fail the test, in my experience
  - I have taught and supervised TLLP's: There is no correlation of the quality of the clinician and the test score, in my opinion.
  - Test doesn't do a good job of measuring practice-relevant knowledge; doesn't attempt to measure clinical skills