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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is sent in support of the proposed rule change 21 NCAC 54.2008, that will end career-long supervision for LPAs. From my perspective, it will only help the public if career-long supervision was ended.

I am a Licensed Psychological Associate in my fifteenth year of practice. I serve the public in private practice, as well as through contract testing at a local charter school. LPAs receive training that is equal and sufficient to other masters-level practitioners who are practicing independently in our state (i.e., Social Workers, LPCs, etc.). Yet, many of the services psychologists *alone* can provide (namely, psychological assessment) are difficult to access in some of our communities—either because there simply aren't enough psychologists providing the service, or because insurance is hesitant to reimburse a practitioner who does not practice independently. Ending career-long supervision would increase accessibility to those services and allow the public to more readily seek them from a *psychologist*, instead of another general therapist/counselor/education specialist.

Furthermore, it is my opinion that, after a good number of years in practice, clinicians in our field tend to specialize, or find their "niche" in a particular mental health population. For this reason especially, I believe that supervision is no longer necessary after a substantial number of years in practice. It seems superfluous to have required meetings several times a month to discuss cases that are remarkably similar to hundreds you've seen in the past. And, while life-long consultation with colleagues about nuanced cases or ethical dilemmas will always be useful and necessary, required life-long supervision is simply not necessary.

Sincerely,



Holly E. Haulter, M.A.
Licensed Psychological Associate