

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Amber Margaretten and I recently graduated with my Master's in Psychology from North Carolina Central University in 2018. I have been practicing psychology since October 2018 and became licensed in April 2019. Even though I have been practicing for about one year, I have run into many roadblocks along the way. Most of them when attempting to find a job. I ended up working for the state, which I love, but it was really my only option. When applying to jobs, I realized rather quickly that private practices or private facilities prefer and hired LPCs and LCSWs over LPAs. This was due to LPAs having to receive indefinite supervision. Why would a practice or facility want to hire someone they have to indefinitely supervise when there are others they would not have to indefinitely supervise? Then there was the problem of insurance. As I am sure you are aware, LPAs are not eligible for certain insurances (Aetna, United Healthcare, TriCare) due to supervision requirements. These unfortunate roadblocks are keeping competent licensed professionals from working in the field, especially in rural areas of this state. LPAs are having to stay near larger cities where we can find work and supervision instead of being able to venture out on our own to serve underserved populations. I truly believe much more of the state could be served if LPAs were allowed to practice independently.

In conclusion, I am writing this letter in support of the NC Psychology Board proposed rule addressing supervision (21 NCAC 54 .2008). LPAs go through more training than LCSWs, LPCs, and LMFTs, but will still have more rigid supervision requirements even if this proposed rule passes. If that is what it takes for LPAs to be able to eventually practice independently, then I fully support this rule change.

Cordially,

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