

To Whom it May Concern,

OCT 21 2019

I have been licensed as a Psychological Associate by the North Carolina Psychology Board for over 20 years. I have a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Substance Abuse Treatment from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

I am writing in support of the North Carolina Psychology Board rule change addressing supervision (21 NCAC 54.2008). This rule change would help to bring parity and equal opportunities for LPAs in line with other master's-level clinicians (i.e., LPC, LCSW, LMFT). Throughout my career, the career-long supervision requirement has significantly hindered me from opportunities for which I am often times the most qualified professional. The career-long supervision requirement for LPAs--not my competency or skill set--has been the one significant limitation throughout my career.

I understand that arguments have been made against this supervision rule change. It is clear the North Carolina Psychology Board does have the authority to set the rules regarding supervision. Arguments stating that "career-long supervision protects the public" have not been supported by any data. Now it appears there are attempts to obfuscate the path to ending career-long supervision of LPAs by questioning the standards for Masters-level training and by dissecting EPPP scores.

The facts remain: mental health needs in our communities are growing; the NC Psychology Board determines the rules regarding levels of supervision; there is no data to support the notion that career-long supervision of LPAs benefits or increases protection of the public; and, LPAs are limited in opportunities to serve their communities due to the career-long supervision requirement when compared to other master's-level providers. As proposed, this supervision rule change will not *eliminate* important supervision. As proposed, this supervision would be the most stringent supervision criteria to work through when compared to other master's-level licensing requirements.

I want to thank the North Carolina Psychology Board for their support of this rule change (21 NCAC 54.2008).

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth Pearson MA, LPA, HSP-PA