

**Therapeutic Resource
Associates, PA**



**Angela Phan, MA, LPA
1618 US HWY 1 North
Youngsville NC, 27596
919-247-4750**

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To Whom It May Concern

I am an LPA licensed by the Psychology Board since 2003. I graduated from NC Central University with a master's degree in clinical psychology. I passed the EPPP shortly after and began practicing. I have been supervised for the past 16 years and have worked on average 35 to 40 hours per week.

I am writing in support of the NC Psychology Board's proposed rule changes addressing supervision, specifically 21 NCAC 54 .2008. These proposed changes would finally give LPAs well deserved equality with other master's level clinicians in the state of NC.

Due to the current supervision requirements, we as masters level clinicians are ineligible for various insurance panels and are excluded from volunteering with certain organizations. This is not only extremely frustrating and unfair to master's level psychologists but is creating a lack of providers in rural areas who need the services we can offer. Independently licensed LPAs would provide a greater pool of resources to consumers as currently many struggle to find access to certain services, especially psychological testing. Some, who have Medicare are driving two or more hours for testing due to there being no licensed clinicians in our area that can participate on the panel for Medicare.

It is important to note that even if these revisions are approved and we are able to practice independently, LPAs would still have more stringent supervision criteria to manage than any other master's level licensed clinician in NC (i.e., PLC, LCSW, LMFT). There will still be a tiered supervision progression and LPAs would be required to demonstrate competency at level three before being considered for independent licensure.

Please strongly consider approval for the new licensing requirements as this is what is best for practitioners as well as for the consumers of NC.

Sincerely,

Angela Phan