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Psychology Board Members and Other Concerned Individuals,

I am writing to communicate my support for proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008 to remove career long supervision for Licensed Psychological Associates. I passed the EPPP well above the doctoral level threshold and I have practiced as an LPA for the past 10 years in the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. During this time, I have received consistent praise from both my board and administrative supervisors and I have been promoted several times into supervisory positions. I personally engage my peers in frequent case consultation. I believe this helps me see things from a different perspective and provide quality clinical care. I am now at a point in my career where board supervision as it currently exists is not beneficial. While my board supervisor is a wonderful peer, I have practiced as a psychologist for many years longer than they have, and they alone do not help me grow as a psychologist. I also do not believe that LPA's by virtue of education require supervision to 'protect the public' and the licensing requirements of LPC, LCSW, and LMFT does not support this. There have been numerous times where I have provided supervision and oversight to PhD level psychologists in the prison system. There are many nuances to working in this environment and I have been able to share my knowledge and experience to help these individuals be successful. During my career I have encountered a few situations where psychologists needed some form of oversight to prevent problematic behavior. In all these situations education level or being an LPA vs LP were irrelevant factors. The problems I encountered fell into 2 groups. First, the practicing psychologist was older and starting to decline in their cognitive functioning. These cases all were LP's who did not require supervision and there was no built-in safeguard for this. The second group were psychologists with poor personal character or extreme personal beliefs. Again, education level was not involved with the problems that arose. Removing career long supervision would also remove barriers that unfairly limit the ability for LPAs to volunteer and work in rural areas. The current system of career long supervision makes doing either of these virtually impossible. In conclusion, removing career long supervision is an important and necessary step towards parity with other mental health clinicians practicing in our state.

Respectfully,

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