



KERNERSVILLE Clinical Psychology, PLLC

851 Old Winston Road, Suite 107, Kernersville, NC 27284

Katherine S. Rollins, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist · Phone (336) 992-2171 · Fax (888)972-8394

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the NC Psychology Board proposed rule changes addressing supervision (21 NCAC 54 .2008). My understanding is that the related rule change would allow Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs) more parity with other master's level clinicians in the state (e.g, LCSWs, LPCs, LMFTs).

As a doctoral psychologist licensed in NC since 2003, I value the work and expertise of LPAs, who provide needed therapy and psychological testing services. Without changes to the rules governing LPA practice, however, LPAs are excluded from a number of insurance panels (e.g., UnitedHealthcare, Aetna, TriCare, Medicare). They also are excluded from participation in certain volunteer opportunities, such as disaster relief with the Red Cross due to not being considered as independently licensed. These limitations are providing an unnecessary shortage of resources for people seeking mental health services in NC.

I encourage support for the NCPB proposed rule changes that will grant qualified level 3 LPAs independent licensure.

Sincerely,

Katherine S. Rollins, Psy.D.
Licensed Psychologist