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**Nova Swanstrom MA, LPA**

**Oct 18, 2019**

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To: Daniel Collins, NC Psychology Board

Re: Proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008

This is my letter in support of LPA independent licensure. I have been a private practice LPA for over ten years. With this, I am the only (that I am aware of) specialist in my field (WPATH certified member/ gender specialist) in an approximate 100 mile radius. Individuals with insurance that will not panel with my licensure (i.e. Medicare, United, Tricare) are unable to work with me using their insurance. This reduces the ability for consumers to have access to the help they need. This has been a hardship for me as my ethics dictate I be able to offer assistance if I am able; at times I have received no payment for my assistance or a significantly reduced rate.

In addition, I write letters for people to be able to have access to medical care when necessary and appropriate; some insurance companies/policies/surgeons require that a letter writer have a licensure that does not require supervision. I am more heavily trained/supervised than many other Master level licensures and yet my documentation does not qualify. It is very problematic being a rare specialist, and more frustrating that my licensure does not even count in order to help my clients.

Furthermore, I continue to have to be supervised, leading to hundreds of dollars a year of additional cost. Please allow me the freedom to assist the people I have been trained to assist. Please allow for me not to have additional costs. Please allow me to be as compensated as my Master degree clinician counterparts.

Thank You,



Nova Swanstrom MA, LPA