

September 18, 2019

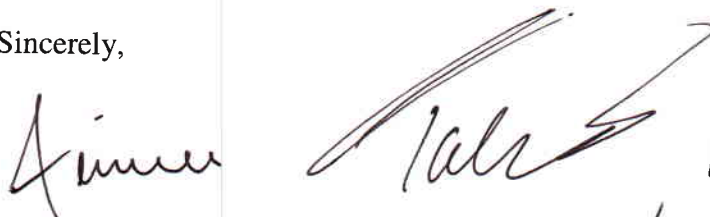
SEP 23 2019

NC Psychology Board  
895 State Farm Road, Suite 101  
Boone, NC 28607

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in reference to the proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008. As a practicing Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA), I am acutely aware of the unfair practices that LPAs encounter. Specifically, the ongoing financial burden of life long supervision. As a student, I enrolled in Appalachian State University's Clinical Health Psychology program, because I felt master level psychology programs provided superior training compared to counseling programs. However, upon entering the work force, I quickly realized that master level counselors and social workers have more freedom in the workplace after obtaining licensure, yet they have inferior training. I support amending the rule, 21 NCAC 54.2008, as it enables master level psychologist to practice independently after obtaining 4500 post-licensure hours. By amending this rule, it would allow LPAs to be more competitive in the workplace and ensure patients have access to providers offering evidence based treatments. In so doing, it will improve the quality of patient care, and the professional lives of LPAs.

Sincerely,

 MA, LPA, HSP-PA

Aimee Tolbert, MA, LPA, HSP-PA