MADONNA HOSPITAL

5401 South St. Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

January 9, 2017

Members of the Prescribing Psychologist Permit Technical Review Committee C/o Ron Briel, Program Manager, Credentialing Review Program Licensure Unit, Division of Public Health P.O. Box 95026 Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to provide support for the recently submitted proposal by the NE Psychological Association to allow licensed psychologists with appropriate comprehensive training to prescribe psychotropic medications under Nebraska law.

I am concerned regarding the critical shortage of professional mental health providers eligible to provide psychotropic medication management services in the western part of the state. Many Nebraska psychologists are interested in pursuing the advanced training that will insure the safe provision of these needed services and this proposal is a step in the right direction. There is a 20-year history of psychologists prescribing in the US military and a 10 year history of medically-based psychologists prescribing in New Mexico and Louisiana.

The opinions expressed in this letter represent my views a licensed psychologist and are not intended to represent the larger organization.

Sincerely,

Paula Ray, PsyD Neuropsychology Department Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital 402-413-3554 pray@madonna.org

Private Practice: 3201 S. 33rd St., Suite E Lincoln, NE 68506 402-802-7513 paularaypsyd@mac.com