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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
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To whom it may concern:

My intent for this letter is to express strong support for the recently submitted proposal by the Nebraska Psychological Association, which could allow licensed psychologists, who have completed comprehensive and specialized post-doctoral training in psychopharmacology, to prescribe psychotropic medications under Nebraska law.

There is a critical shortage of access to psychiatric medication treatment. This means that people with serious mental illness in need of psychotropic medication management often wait two to three months for a psychiatric consultation and then wait almost the same amount of time for a follow-up visit. If they miss an appointment for any reason, they often wait at least two more months. I currently work at the Beatrice State Developmental Center in Beatrice, NE. Even in an area that is not considered very rural (as compared with western Nebraska), we still see a shortage in availability of psychiatric services with our population.

At this point, the argument against psychologists with special training having prescriptive authority that cites "safety" as the reason is simply a fear tactic to protect turf. There is now a 20 year history of psychologists prescribing in the US military and a 10 year history of medical psychologists prescribing SAFELY in two states. New Mexico passed their RxP bill in 2002, Louisiana in 2004, Illinois in 2014, and Iowa in 2016. In more than 20 years of prescribing, there have been no complaints against psychologists with prescriptive authority for their use of medications.

Thank you for taking time to review this letter and your consideration of an important issue in our state.

Sincerely,

Wanda E. Miller