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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Chairman Hank Vaupel
Health Policy Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI, 48909-7514

Health Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of several Temporary Limited License Psychologists (TLLP's) in my district who graduated in 2009 and 2010, please accept this letter urging your support for HB 4549.

In 2007, graduate students were informed that the Michigan Board of Psychology was implementing a new administrative rule requiring an EPPP Board Exam for Limited License in Psychology (LLP) licensure. Several school officials at multiple universities misinformed students that they would be exempt from the EPPP Board exam if they graduated prior to June 30, 2010. The administrative rule, written by LARA stated that an individual would be exempt from the exam if they applied for an LLP prior to June 30, 2010.

Many of the graduates were not advised of the error until after the exam effective date. Conversely, graduates of other universities were advised of a loophole. Some individuals were able to avoid the EPPP exam by applying for both the TLLP and LLP licenses prior to June 30, 2010, even though they were not yet qualified for a LLP. This loophole represents disparate implementation; because the EPPP requirement was not equally applied to all individuals seeking licensure. This legislation would eliminate the EPPP requirement for students who graduated prior to June 30, 2010 (when the new rule was implemented).

A resident and psychology graduate from Madonna University in my district of Livonia explained, that had he known he was required to take the EPPP exam, he would not have pursued a master's degree in psychology. Without this legislation, several graduates who have invested large sums of money toward their education will be forced to take unpaid leave from their jobs to prepare for this exam, which will undoubtedly negatively impact their work with established clients and valuable state programs.

Warm Regards,

Laura Cox
State Representative
Chair of Appropriations

