

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you as a licensed School Psychologist and the owner of The Anxiety Center, an outpatient psychiatry practice in Cincinnati, Ohio. Since we opened two years ago, we have serviced over 2000 patients. We have provided high-quality, evidenced-based services to some of the most vulnerable patients in our community. I am taking the time to write this statement out of extreme concern that HB 506 legislation would work to limit access to care by removing the School Psychology board licensure in Ohio while we are witnessing a mental health crisis in our state. School Psychologists are already at the forefront of mental health services for Ohio's youth and are often the first and only responders for our students. They are uniquely positioned to serve as an interface between schools and much-needed outpatient providers. They also serve as experts in special education law and can provide advocacy in a manner unique to psychology. I have always admired the School Psychology licensure in Ohio, which acknowledges that if School Psychologists are "good enough" to provide mental health services to our most precious resource, the children in our schools, they should also be "good enough" to provide services outside of schools. School psychologists bring a unique yet under-valued skill set to mental health treatment that deserves to be acknowledged by our government. Unfortunately, as written, this legislation would inadvertently provide undue harm to citizens already facing unreasonable wait times for testing and psychotherapy for conditions that need immediate treatment. This is a time when I would urge you to put Ohio's mental health needs over convenience.

Sincerely,

Nathan Fite, PhD

Managing Director & Owner

The Anxiety Center

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