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My name is Laura Gabel and I have been a school psychologist in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for 33 years. I am a former president of the Cleveland Association of School Psychologists and Ohio School Psychologist Association Board Member; a National Association of School Psychologists Prepare Crisis trainer and an Adjunct professor teaching Crisis Management in the Schools at Cleveland State University. I have trained hundreds of school psychologists and counselors on how to prevent and respond to school shootings and school violence. I hold a permanent school psychologist certificate issued by the Ohio Department of Education in 1999 and a Private Practice School Psychologist License issued by the State Board of Psychology in 1994.

I urge you to vote **against HB 509**. This bill would eliminate the private practice license for school psychologists at a time when we need school psychologists more than ever. There is a misconception that the State Board of Psychology private practice license is the same thing as the Ohio Department of Education school psychologist license. I assure you they are **two very different things**. I think the confusion is due to the change in wording at ODE from CERTIFICATE to LICENSE. As you can see above, in 1999 my ODE issue was a CERTIFICATE, not a license (which is the current wording). The State Board of Psychology Private Practice License is a **higher level credential**. Criteria to attain this license includes passing a written examination, sitting for an oral examination and having at least 4 years of school psychology experience (with your ODE license). Holding the private practice license authorizes **independent** practice of school psychology **outside of schools (the ODE license does not)**. This Private Practice License Includes 1. evaluation and interpretation of intellectual ability, learning patterns and behavior related to learning problems, 2. intervention services including counseling related to learning and emotional problems and 3. psychological, educational, or vocational consultation or direct services. The Private Practice license also allows for psychological work supervision, psychological training supervision and psychological umbrella supervision under the law. This supervision aspect is so important during this workforce shortage. I know many school psychologists who are retired from school districts but continue to use their private practice license to supervise others and share their vast knowledge.

There is an **Incredible need** for school psychological services after this pandemic. In my 33 years serving Ohio's children I have never seen the extreme level of behavioral and academic needs as I do today. I urge you to keep as many people as possible addressing the academic and behavioral needs of Ohio's children. Removing the School Psychologist Private Practice License will reduce the number of people that are serving Ohio's children. **This is Not a duplicate License and removing it would remove the very people who help our children recover from the negative academic and behavioral effects of this pandemic**. I Urge you to vote NO on HB 509.

Respectfully,



Laura Gabel, School Psychologist

Summit County