

**106 Morris Drive  
Fayetteville, GA 30215**

May 13, 2009

American Psychological Association  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242

Dear Members of the Model Licensure Act Task Force:

I am the parent of three children in public schools. Two of my children have special behavioral and academic needs. I was shocked and appalled when I heard of your plans to remove the exemption for school psychologists in the APA Model Licensure Act. I am opposed to this change and ask that you seriously reconsider this decision.

My major concern is that children such as mine would be seriously hurt by this change. I have had dealings with a variety of private and public mental health professionals. It has been my experience that the school personnel were significantly better informed than the psychologists in the private sector. The school psychologists understand what is occurring in the schools with my children academically, as well as socially (a big concern for my 13 year old) and behaviorally. To eliminate these professionals would negatively impact the quality of services children receive on a *daily* basis. In the end, this could have a strong and significant impact on the overall achievement and success of *all* children! Allowing people who do not understand how schools function and how all of the professionals in school work together for the success of children in these critical times is unwarranted.

According to my research Georgia has 1.7 million children in the public school system alone. I am respectfully asking that you continue to provide this exemption to school psychologists in its Model Licensure Act. It will help to continue needed services for my children and all the children of Georgia.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Forsyth