From: Jaedon Avey
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: SB41 ATTN: Amy
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 12:29:45 PM

Dear Senator Lesil McGuire,

I am a Temporarily Licensed Psychologist (#111) currently completing post-doc supervision hours on an approved plan. I was trained right here in Alaska and have been in the mental health field, in some capacity, for the last 9 years. I am writing today regarding SB 41.

As a practicing health care professional, I care deeply about the safety of the patients I serve. I care about my profession and preserving the ability to practice according to my training and education.

I also care about my own rights to privacy and safety. I want to thank the committee for taking time to look at these issues related to SB41.

My hope is that any regulations drafted as a result of SB 41 becoming law appropriately balance the protection of the public with the rights of practitioners and your deliberations will help inform that process. I am aware there has been testimony by the licensing board indicating there are no plans to require background checks beyond initial licensure. Accordingly, I strongly support amending the bill by requiring background checks for initial licensure only.

I am unsure if fingerprinting, in addition to background checks, for initial licensure would offer meaningful additional protection to the public. Mr. Levy of the Licensing Board has testified in both the legislative hearings that psychology has been an unblemished profession in Alaska for 52 years and that here are no cases of harm caused by the lack of background checks.

Thank you for taking the time to look at issues related to SB41.

Jaedon Avey, PhD

Member-At-Large/Listerv Moderator/Webmaster, Alaska Psychological Association