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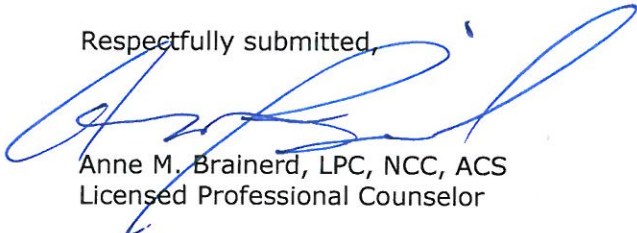
February 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the Board of Licensed Psychologists and Psychological Associates' work to change Alaska statutes and regulations and require background checks on all applicants for licensure.

Psychologists work in positions founded solely on trust. They are privy to the most intimate details of their clients' lives and, quite often, work with some of our state's most vulnerable individuals. Why, then, would we not ensure our psychologists meet the highest standards of legal behavior? It seems imprudent and illogical to require a Case Manager to have a background check [AS 47.05.300(3)] but not require a psychologist or psychological associate to do so. Furthermore, I do not believe that public trust should be based solely on who pays the bill - Alaska Statute 47.05.300 also states that a provider must have a background in order to be "eligible to receive payments, in whole or in part, from the department [of health and social services]." The health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Alaska is the business of *all* providers and, therefore, should be safeguarded as such.

Respectfully submitted,



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