Sample Message

October \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 634.

*Ideas:  First paragraph*

* *personally speak to why you selected the field of psychology, what you’ve invested in terms of time, energy, efforts, cost; highlight your passion to serve*
* *what are you doing professionally– who are you serving?*
* *how does this service help the community/society? Is there any way that this specifically helps Michigan?*
* *If you’ve been a Michigan resident, emphasize connection to the state*

*THEN:*

* *why it’s important to have the TLLP extended (see below)*

Currently TLLP licenses now expire 18 months after being granted. This does not allow sufficient time for most of these individuals to complete the 2,000 post masters’ clinical hours required for non-temporary licensure. Further, if TLLP holders do not pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) on their first attempts, their licenses are revoked, causing hardship for clients and the agencies in which these graduates work. This is unlike other professional examinations, which can be taken multiple times.

The current law is unreasonable in expecting completion of 2000 hours and passage of the EPPP in one year. **No other mental health degree has these same requirements.** Typically, masters level TLLPs have difficulty acquiring full time positions since most insurance companies do not reimburse for the services of temporary licensed clinicians. Whether working full or part time, the TLLP is typically the lowest paid clinician, yet works with clients who are the most vulnerable; that is, those that have no ability to pay or use their insurance because of high deductibles and copays. Further many newly graduated TLLPs cannot afford to take low-paying full time clinical positions because they must also work elsewhere to support their families and pay back student loans.

SB 634 grants a TLLP for 24 months plus a one extension for masters’ graduates, which provides sufficient time to complete 2000 hours of supervised post graduate clinical practice and pass the EPPP licensing exam. This is a reasonable timeframe for masters-level graduates and is consistent with other master’s degrees in social work and counseling.

Students in doctoral programs holding a TLLP also face a December 31, 2017 expiration with no extensions granted in existing Michigan law. Without this license, it is likely that they will be prevented from completing the clinical training component of their doctoral education because most training sites require student trainees to hold post-masters’ licenses. As a result, their ability to complete their degree, after considerable effort and great expense, is severely compromised.

SB 634 allows for extension of doctoral TLLP license in a timeframe sufficient to complete ALL requirements of their doctoral program, including clinical training in practicum and internship..

It grants a TLLP for 24 months plus three extensions for students in doctoral programs.

I ask you to vote in support of SB 634 to make it possible for masters’ graduates and those pursing doctoral studies in psychology can take their rightful place in providing mental health services that the citizens of Michigan so gravely need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Contact Information