Good morning,

Thank you all for being here today. My name is Jasmine Mitchell, Secretary of the Nevada Association of School Psychologists. On behalf of my Association, we would like to emphasize the need for a yearlong extension to the NEPF standards for Other Licensed Personnel. We strongly urge that you delay implementation because OLP as whole has shown significant disapproval to the NEPF as it is currently written.

As Tim just mentioned, these standards are not consistent with our National school psychology standards. While we appreciate the TLC’s efforts to select limited aspects of our national standards, it is too much of a stretch to link the 10 service-defined domains of the National Association of School Psychologists Practice Model to a set of instructional outcomes that are clearly designed for teachers. Let’s give the example of the NEPF Standard 4 (pause): “Learners engage in metacognitive activity to increase understanding of and responsibility for their own learning.” School psychologists know that there is not a single NASP Professional Practice that aligns with this outcome. There may be small aspects of our job that relate to this, but it is at-best a small percentage of our job. We don’t feel this proposed NEPF evaluation rubric for service personnel in the OLP represents what school psychologists know, and the invaluable services we provide to students. Therefore, it should have come as no surprise that we and almost all other OLP wanted the 5% weighting for the instructional standards. However, the TLC was not open to our suggestions when making the final decisions and chose to make it 15% weighting. Furthermore, OLP stakeholders proposed dividing the OLP by whether they provide instruction or not and this was also dismissed by the TLC.

Given that our suggestions were not accounted for, we strongly disapprove of the standards as they are currently written and find it of utmost importance to delay implementation in order to create standards with clear logic, rigor, and relevance. It is very hard work, yet absolutely necessary- To collect more data on the accountability systems of other states and to learn more about national standards of the various professions in OLP. Overall, we feel it’s too risky to rush into a major decision without giving this the necessary amount of time needed. Given the large amount of disagreement—there is simply no way to settle this during the current Legislative term.

Thank you.