Hello,

I’m Tim McIvor, President of the Nevada Association of School Psychologists. Our Association represents the vast majority of school psychologists in Nevada, and from the feedback we’ve received, it is clear that the school psychologists of Nevada want the national school psychology standards to be our standards. The logic is clear. These standards are rigorous. The National Association of School Psychologists spent over 10 years developing these standards. They are also relevant. They spent 5 years piloting them before their publication in 2012 ensuring that they work for school psychologists in urban, suburban, and rural districts.

I want to make it clear that we intend to support the NEPF when it can be meaningfully aligned to our national standards, yet unfortunately this is not the case. The NEPF is designed for teachers, and there is no way to turn school psychologists into teachers. Essentially what the NEPF is doing is recreating our job in a way that nobody has conceptualized our job to be. It is simply not feasible for school psychologists to provide federally mandated services and fulfill the NEPF simultaneously. They are two different roles.

There is no other state that holds school psychologists accountable to high leverage standards in the manner that is remotely similar to the Teacher and Leaders Council’s proposal. The Washington D.C. School Board tried this route several years ago yet later abandoned it. The State of Florida tried this route and abandoned it. Keep in mind that the D.C. School Board has access to some of the smartest experts in the nation, and they came to the decision to not go this route. They instead chose to align the standards for school psychologists to their national school psychology standards, as have the vast majority of Race to the Top states.

From our observations, it is not just school psychologists who disagree with the current version of the NEPF, but Other Licensed Personnel as a whole. In fact, of the 50+ stakeholders who were invited by the TLC to advise them, we can find no one in support of the current proposal. We can affirm that there has been no statements of support from these professions in Public Comment over the past three TLC meetings. The time is here to demonstrate your leadership and responsibility to these vital educational professionals. Grant the TLC an extension in order to have more time to align the NEPF with the researched-based and universally endorsed national standards. Thank you.