

Dr. Laura Grubb, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

On Behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association

In Support of House Bill SB0238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Good afternoon Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and committee members.

My name is Dr. Grubb, I am a school psychologist with Baltimore city public schools, and legislative chair for Maryland School Psychologists' Association, representing over 500 school psychologists throughout the state. Yet we don't have enough school psychologists in Maryland. In fact, we have around half the number we need, based on the depth and breadth of services school psychs provide. Many people don't realize that School psychologists are *trained solely and specifically for the public school setting*. We know how to support and intervene at the school-wide, class-wide, small group, and individual level across social emotional, behavioral, and academic concerns.

However, sharply rising mental health concerns and academic needs have led to more referrals for evaluation, more suicide and threat assessments, more crisis intervention and de-escalation. School psych's all over Maryland have their hands full simply maintaining safety and legal compliance. This leaves the classrooms and students not-yet-at-crisis level without the early and ongoing supports school psychologists are trained to provide, and Students and teachers without supports cannot thrive.

This is why passing the ICSP is right for Maryland right now – we benefit from a newly mobile workforce and we get a seat at the table to steer the future of the compact.

School psychologists want to work where labor conditions are high quality - and labor conditions are good here. School psychologists want pay that is commensurate with the critical work they do – and Maryland sits at the top tier nationally for public school teacher bargaining rights. Most of all, School psychologists want to work where they are free to practice up to their potential – supporting the success of ALL students. No exclusions. By these measures, Public Schools in Maryland are a great place to practice.

In short: we have built it – so let them come. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and I thank you for your time and consideration today.



Laura M. Grubb, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

Chair, MSPA Legislative Committee