

Letter of Support School Psychologist Interstate C

Uploaded by: Alita-Geri Carter

Position: FAV



Tc4health@gmail.com
www.qualequityaccess.com

February 16, 2026

RE: SUPPORT for HB 340 / SB 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Feldman,, Vice Chair Kagan, Senator Augustine, and Honorable Members of Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am the mother of two children with disabilities, a former practicing pediatric nursing practitioner, special education parent advocate, and public health servant.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2021 one in every five children ages 3-17 had a mental, emotional, or behavioral health diagnosis. Only 20% of children with a mental health diagnosis receive treatment and over 75% of treatment is provided by school-based providers (American Academy of Pediatrics, n.d.; Lyon et al., 2016).

In Maryland there is only 1 school psychologist for every 1,066 students enrolled according to data published to CBS News (2024). School-based mental health services strategically address barriers such as transportation, stigma, and schedule conflicts that would lead to time missed from school by the student or from work by the guardian (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2025; National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2025)

I am writing to urge a **favorable report** on **HB 340 / SB 238**, which would enter Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. By reducing barriers to licensure portability, this legislation is a fiscally responsible tool to address workforce shortages, increase access to mental and behavioral health services, support our military families, and leverage Maryland's competitive standing to attract high-quality talent.

Supporting Military Families and Fiscal Responsibility:

Current licensure barriers place an undue burden on military spouses, who often face unemployment or underemployment due to lengthy credentialing processes when relocating. According to the National Council of State Legislatures (2021), reciprocity and portability are critical benefits that can directly alleviate these challenges.

For legislators prioritizing fiscal responsibility, the economic impact of the status quo is stark. A study by Blue Star Families found that "unemployment, underemployment, and reduced labor force participation among military spouses cost the U.S. economy almost \$1 billion per year" (National Council of State Legislatures, 2021). By passing this Compact, Maryland can take a definitive step toward reducing this economic waste and supporting the families who serve our country.



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A Proven Model: Success of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

We do not need to guess if interstate compacts work; we have proof from right here in Maryland. The state has already seen significant success after joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). According to a recent report, "over 17% of all new licenses issued to physicians in 2022 were done via the IMLC process" (Maryland Board of Physicians, 2023, p. 5). This data demonstrates that when Maryland lowers administrative barriers, we experience a net increase in the number of licensed professionals available to serve our population. **HB 340/SB 238** applies this same successful logic to our mental health and education workforce.

Leveraging Maryland's Competitive Advantage

Maryland is already a highly attractive destination for school psychologists, but administrative hurdles prevent us from fully capitalizing on this advantage. According to reports from **Forbes (2022)**, Maryland ranked among the top 10 states for school psychologist annual pay. Furthermore, **2024 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics** indicates that Maryland ranked in the top 4 for annual salaries nationwide for school psychologists (data available at bls.gov/oes/tables.htm).

We offer some of the most competitive salaries in the nation, yet we stand lose qualified talent because they cannot easily transfer their credentials. This bill removes the "red tape" that keeps qualified professionals out of our state, allowing Maryland to see a return on investment for its competitive wage structures.

Increasing Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Services

As mentioned previously, access to mental and behavioral health services is limited, my family waited 22 months after time of referral to receive an evaluation. While we waited, we called several local healthcare systems and were provided waitlist times as long as three years. Unfortunately, our family's experience is not unique. While families wait for evaluations, their children may be disciplined for behaviors that are disability-related, removed from school or dismissed from childcare thereby increasing the risk of parents being terminated from their jobs or having to exit the labor force to caretake for school-aged children.

The School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact is a common-sense solution that supports military families, has the potential to increase access to school-based mental and behavioral health services, follows a proven model of success, and capitalizes on Maryland's economic strengths.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this critical workforce legislation. I urge a favorable report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alita-Geri Carter, MSN, DNP-C, CPNP-PC, BCPA
Resident, Howard County, MD

SB0238_MHAMD_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Ann Geddes

Position: FAV

SB 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 18, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 238.

SB 238 would enter Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. This would allow school psychologists licensed in states that are part of the Compact to work in Maryland, and Maryland psychologists to work in those same states. The Interstate Compact was established by the Council of State Governments, the Department of Defense, and the National Association of School Psychologists. To date, seven states have enacted legislation to join the Compact.

Data from a 2024 state assessment of Maryland's behavioral health workforce highlights an escalating crisis in access to care. According to the report¹, today's workforce of 34,600 behavioral health professionals is 34% smaller than necessary to meet current demand, requiring an immediate influx of 18,200 individuals. An additional 14,600 workers will be required to replace those leaving the field by 2028, requiring a doubling of current capacity in just the next few years to keep pace with need.

The workforce shortage in Maryland is especially acute in the field of school psychologists. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a psychologist to student ratio of 1:500. In 2022-23, Maryland's ratio was 1:1,053. Twenty states had a better ratio than Maryland. Those with the worst ratios were concentrated in the south: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.²

The shortage of school psychologists is particularly concerning given the current crisis in youth mental health. Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 2022-23 shows that 28% of Maryland high school students and 22% of middle school students reported that their mental health was not good most of the time or always, and 18% of high school students and 24% of middle school students reported that they had seriously considered suicide.³ The state must implement every possible measure to better support the mental health of Maryland's young people.

¹ *Investing in Maryland's Behavioral Health Talent*. Maryland Health Care Commission. October 2024.
https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/plr/plr/documents/2024/md_bh_workforce_rpt_SB283.pdf

² National Association of School Psychologist Policy Platform (2024). <https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>

³ Maryland Department of Health releases 2022-2023 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey data. Maryland Department of Health. June 25, 2024.
<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Reports/Pages/YRBS-2022-2023.aspx>

Enacting legislation that allows Maryland to enter a School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact is one such step. Interstate licensure compacts increase access to care by adding depth to local labor pools. Maryland has already entered into several health care licensure compacts.⁴ School psychologists should be added to the list.

For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 238 and urges a favorable report.

⁴ The Council of State Governments. Interstate Compact Briefing (October, 2025).
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/meeting_material/2025/frc%20-%20134037364771846501%20-%20Maryland%20Interstate%20Compact%20Briefing%20-%20CSG.pdf

SB 238 Testimony - School Psychologist Interstate

Uploaded by: Caden Fabbi

Position: FAV

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Angela Kimball, Chief Advocacy Officer, Inseparable

Date: February 16, 2026

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 238 - School Psychologist Interstate Compact

On behalf of Inseparable, a national mental health policy and advocacy organization focused on improving youth mental health outcomes and strengthening the behavioral health workforce, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony **in support of Senate Bill 238**.

SB 238 would help address Maryland's shortage of school psychologists by authorizing the state to join the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists. An interstate compact is a formal agreement among participating states that allows qualified, licensed professionals to practice across state lines while preserving each state's authority over licensure standards, scope of practice, and discipline. Compacts reduce duplicative licensing barriers without lowering professional standards, helping states respond more effectively to workforce shortages.

Maryland, like many states, faces a significant shortage of school psychologists. The most recent data indicates a ratio of one school psychologist for every 1,037 students - more than double the recommended ratio of one for every 500 students. As a result, many practitioners carry overwhelming caseloads and often split their time across multiple schools each day. These constraints severely limit the time school psychologists can spend supporting students amid rising rates of anxiety, trauma, learning challenges, and behavioral concerns.

SB 238 offers a practical, targeted solution. By recognizing existing credentials from other compact states, Maryland can enable qualified school psychologists to begin working more quickly, reducing delays caused by lengthy and duplicative licensure processes. Importantly, the compact maintains Maryland's full authority over professional standards and disciplinary actions while improving licensure portability.

Joining the compact could also help Maryland recruit and retain a more diverse school psychology workforce. Research consistently shows that diverse school staff strengthen student support, improve equity, and reduce disparities in outcomes. Yet the school psychologist workforce remains disproportionately white, even as Maryland's student population grows increasingly diverse and Black youth, in particular, face sharply rising mental

health risks, including increased suicide rates. Expanding access to a broader pool of qualified professionals can help schools better meet the needs of all students.

The compact is especially beneficial for highly mobile professionals, including military spouses, who often relocate every two to three years and are forced to repeatedly restart the licensing process. Other states that have already joined report no direct fiscal impact.

SB 238 strengthens Maryland's ability to recruit, retain, and diversify its school psychologist workforce while ensuring students receive timely, high-quality mental health services. For these reasons, **Inseparable respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 238.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Kimball".

Angela Kimball
Chief Advocacy Officer

Kulp Testimony SP Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: Christa Kulp

Position: FAV

Testimony of Dr. Christa Kulp, NCSP

On Behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association
Representing Anne Arundel County Public Schools

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

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Christa Kulp, and I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) with over 20 years of experience serving students in Maryland. I am proud to represent the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA) and Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill SB0238, the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of one school psychologist for every 500 students to ensure adequate academic, behavioral, and mental health support. However, in Maryland, the current average ratio is approximately 1:1,000—double the recommended level. In many counties, ratios are even higher, reaching two to three times the recommended standard. These excessive caseloads significantly limit our ability to provide timely evaluations, preventative mental health services, and proactive school-wide supports.

School psychologists are uniquely trained to support students' academic achievement, social-emotional development, behavioral needs, and mental health. While our days are structured around evaluations, consultations, counseling, and multidisciplinary meetings, they are frequently interrupted by urgent matters such as student crises, threats of violence or self-harm, safety concerns, and acute emotional or behavioral needs. These situations require immediate, skilled intervention and often demand real-time reprioritization of responsibilities.

Beyond crisis response, we collaborate extensively with teachers, families, administrators, and community providers. We interpret complex data, contribute to high-stakes eligibility and placement decisions, and ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. Each of these responsibilities requires careful documentation, professional judgment, and significant time. Many school psychologists serve multiple schools—sometimes including specialized programs—further increasing workload demands.

When staffing ratios are this high, school psychologists are forced into a reactive, triage-based model. Instead of implementing preventative services and early interventions, we are compelled to respond after problems escalate. The consequences are significant: delayed evaluations, unmet student needs, increased disciplinary actions, staff burnout, and greater strain on educational systems already facing educator shortages and an unprecedented youth mental health crisis.

The Interstate Licensure Compact offers a practical, fiscally responsible solution. By enabling licensed school psychologists to practice across participating states, the Compact reduces barriers to mobility and helps districts fill critical vacancies more efficiently. It leverages an already qualified workforce without lowering standards, while strengthening the pipeline of

professionals available to serve Maryland students. This investment supports both workforce stability and improved student outcomes.

I currently serve in AACPS, although I am fortunate to serve one school full-time, many of my colleagues cover multiple buildings and specialized programs. Throughout my career, I have served both elementary and secondary schools across the county. I now work at the Virtual Academy, Maryland's first fully accredited statewide virtual school. Approximately 34% of our students receive special education services. While ours is a program of choice, many families enroll because they believe their child's needs were not fully met in a traditional comprehensive setting. The demand for specialized psychological expertise continues to grow. Our students cannot wait. Expanding access to qualified school psychologists through the Interstate Licensure Compact is a strategic, evidence-based step toward ensuring that every child in Maryland has access to the mental health and educational support they deserve.

At my school, no two days are ever the same. I may begin the morning finalizing a comprehensive evaluation report to meet a legal deadline, only to pivot immediately to conduct a threat assessment after a student makes statements about potential violence or self-harm. In between, I consult with teachers about behavioral interventions, counsel a student experiencing anxiety, respond to parent emails, and participate in an IEP/504 meetings where high-stakes decisions about services and placement must be made. Throughout the day, unexpected crises—ranging from safety concerns to emotional breakdowns—require immediate attention and thoughtful intervention. I may need to contact Child Protective Services due to suspected abuse or neglect, ensuring a child's safety while carefully documenting and consulting with administration. In between these urgent matters, I facilitate restorative circles to address student conflict and repair peer relationships. Each responsibility requires professional judgment, emotional presence, and meticulous documentation. Balancing all of these issues and staffing underscores both the complexity of the role and the urgent need for adequate school psychologist staffing to ensure students receive appropriate support.

Importantly, this legislation directly supports our military families by enabling military-connected school psychologists to continue practicing without unnecessary barriers following a Permanent Change of Station (PCS). For AACPS, where more than 10% of our student population are military-connected dependents, and one of the highest percentages in the state, the need for House Bill SB0238 is especially clear. Passage of the bill would strengthen workforce continuity and ensure consistent access to qualified school psychologists for the students and families who serve our country.

On behalf of MSPA, AACPS, and the students and families we serve, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill SB0238. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Christa Kulp, NCSP

BTU Testimony SB238 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Cristina E Duncan Evans

Position: FAV



AFT 340 AFL-CIO
Seton Business Park
5800 Metro Drive, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21215-3209

Senate Bill 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 18, 2026, 1pm

FAVORABLE

The BTU proudly represents thousands of educators, school support staff, and education professionals working in Baltimore City public schools.

We are strongly in support of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. School psychologists are essential contributors to both academic and behavioral outcomes. Their work includes conducting assessments to identify learning needs and disabilities and supporting positive behavior interventions and mental health initiatives. In addition, School psychologists work directly with students, families, teachers, and administrators to improve . school climate and respond to crises and facilitating trauma-informed practicesThey are often on the front lines of identifying concerns such as anxiety, depression, and learning challenges — areas that have only grown in urgency in recent years.

Despite the clear and vital role of school psychologists, schools across Maryland are experiencing significant shortages of qualified professionals. These shortages are driven by several factors, including a low number of school psychologists graduating from Maryland colleges and universities. Current state-by-state licensure requirements can make it difficult for school psychologists to relocate or serve multiple jurisdictions — particularly in areas near state borders or for districts seeking flexible staffing solutions. These challenges directly impact students: delayed evaluations, limited access to mental health supports, and fewer resources for preventive interventions.

The School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact will allow licensed school psychologists to practice across state lines without redundant licensing barriers, making it easier for districts, especially those in underserved or rural areas, to recruit talent. By broadening the pool of eligible professionals, schools can fill vacancies more quickly and reduce the time students wait for essential evaluations and supports. Removing licensure barriers helps retain experienced school psychologists who may otherwise leave the profession or relocate to states with more flexible licensing.

Maryland’s students need timely, skilled, and compassionate support now more than ever. The nationwide shortage of school psychologists, coupled with rising academic and mental health needs underscores the urgency of removing unnecessary barriers to recruitment and retention. For these reasons, the Baltimore Teachers Union urges a favorable report on the Compact.

SB 238_School Psychologist Compact_BHSB_FAVORABLE.

Uploaded by: Dan Rabbitt

Position: FAV



February 18, 2026

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

SB 238 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the local behavioral health authority (LBHA) for Baltimore City. BHSB works to increase access to a full range of quality behavioral health (mental health and substance use) services and advocates for innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals, families, and communities. Baltimore City represents nearly 35 percent of the public behavioral health system in Maryland, serving over 100,000 people with mental illness and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as “behavioral health”) annually.

Behavioral Health System Baltimore supports SB 238 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

This bill would establish a school psychologist multistate license, making it easier for school psychologists from out of state to work in Maryland. This flexibility is critical to address workforce shortages in the state.

Maryland faces a severe behavioral health shortage. A 2024 report commissioned by the Maryland Health Care Commission concluded that the state was lacking 32,800 behavioral health professionals that would be needed by 2028 to address our behavioral health challenges. This included an estimated shortage of 1,060 psychologists. Indeed, the report recommends over \$135 million in investments to address these shortages across professions through apprenticeships, fellowships, and other grants.¹ While these investments are needed, adopting more flexible licensure policies is a workforce strategy that would not require the state to allocate public funds.

Maryland also faces a shortage specifically of school psychologists. It is recommended that school systems employ one school psychologist for every 500 students, but Maryland has less than half the workforce needed to meet the standard. Maryland also lags our neighbors in Pennsylvania and Delaware.² This shortage delays important psychological evaluations for children and exacerbates educational difficulties.

SB 238 is a modest proposal to create a more flexible license for school psychologists that would apply across all states who join the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. This policy would allow school psychologists in other states to practice in all compact states without obtaining separate licenses and would facilitate mobility of school psychologists. This would help expand the pool of available professionals for Maryland’s schools and improve access to these critical services for Maryland children.

SB 238 makes it easier for behavioral health professionals in other states to work in Maryland and help meet our children’s needs. **We urge the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to support SB 238.**

For more information, please contact BHSB Policy Director Dan Rabbitt at 443-401-6142

References:

¹ Maryland Health Care Commission. *Investing in Maryland’s Behavioral Health Talent*. October 2024. Available at: https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/plr/plr/documents/2024/md_bh_workforce_rpt_SB283.pdf

² National Association of School Psychologists. State Shortages Data Dashboard accessed February 2026. Available at: <https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>

Maryland Military Coalition SB0238 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to request a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact** sponsored by Senator Malcolm Augustine. This bill would enter Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact that was developed by the Council of State Governments (CSG) in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) to support the mobility of licensed school psychologists.

School psychologists provide critical services for children across the country to better support learning, mental health, and behavior in schools. There is, however, a shortage of school psychologists in Maryland. According to data from NASP, as of February 2026, Maryland's current ratio is 1,037:1² compared to the recommended ratio of 500-750:1. This shortage not only harms students, but also further stretches thin the ability for teachers and administrators to focus directly on their roles. The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP) provides an additional tool in the toolbox for Maryland in addressing shortages in our state. In addition, the ICSP maintains Maryland's sovereignty and does not alter the State's ability to regulate the school psychologist profession or licensure.

By passing SB0238, Maryland can join seven other states that have enacted this compact. This compact will benefit practitioners who are spouses of members of the armed forces by:

- Facilitating multistate practice
- Enhancing license portability when official orders require a change of duty stations
- **Support relocating military spouses, a key goal of the MMC**

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

² <https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>

Subject: Request for FAVORABLE Report – SB0238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

- Reduce the burden of maintaining multiple licenses

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0238** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. Enacting this compact is in line with the DoD's commitment to supporting military spouses as an essential component of supporting military families. The MMC believes, as does the DoD, that interstate licensure compacts are the best solution for occupational license portability for military spouses.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Augustine for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'D'.

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars

SB0238 - State Board & MSDE - Support.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Donna Gunning

Position: FAV



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Joshua L. Michael, Ph.D.
President, State Board of Education

TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

DATE: February 18, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Board of Education and the State Department of Education (MSDE) provide this letter of support regarding Senate Bill 238 – the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact, which would authorize Maryland’s entry into a multistate licensure compact for school psychologists. MSDE supports the goal of expanding access to qualified school psychologist services, a priority that aligns with the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, and appreciates the efforts to facilitate workforce mobility and enhance mental health supports for students.

Maryland’s current regulatory framework provides an efficient, low-cost pathway to extend reciprocity for out-of-state applicants. Under COMAR 13A.12.04.09, “Pathway 2” allows for the licensure of applicants from out-of-state approved programs that include a 1,200-hour internship and passing scores on a licensure test. This existing pathway already aligns with the criteria established in SB 238, and the Compact would serve as a valuable supplementary mechanism to further broaden the pool of qualified applicants.

To support Maryland’s participation in the Compact, MSDE must appoint a Commissioner to oversee day-to-day administrative duties as a member state, which include implementing Compact rules and regulations, managing interstate information-sharing systems, overseeing complaint intake and investigations, and administering licensure processes in coordination with other member states. Participation in the Compact will also require additional expenditures, including an annual Compact fee (estimated at \$7,000-\$10,000) and a one-time investment to enhance the State’s educator licensure system to support equivalent licensure for Compact members. This represents an additional investment of Departmental resources to ensure the Compact is implemented effectively and strengthens the State’s ability to attract qualified school psychologists and support LEAs.

MSDE remains dedicated to expanding access to mental health care in schools and students’ communities. The Compact represents a meaningful opportunity to attract additional school psychologists to Maryland and to strengthen the State’s broader mental health workforce. MSDE looks forward to continued partnership with the General Assembly and LEAs to increase the number of mental health professionals serving our schools and neighborhoods.

The Department stands ready to provide additional information or technical assistance as **SB 238** is considered. Please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov or at 443-571-5461, for additional information.

2026 SB238 NAPNAP.pdf

Uploaded by: JD Murphy

Position: FAV



February 16th, 2026

Maryland Senate
Education, Energy, & The Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **support of Senate Bill 238 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact**.

This bill establishes an interstate compact for school psychologists, which is an effective tool for increasing access to healthcare. Maryland has actualized this benefit from interstate compacts with physicians, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, counselors, and speech language pathologists to name a few. Importantly, this bill will increase mental health access for pediatric patients across the state.

One in every five children have a mental, emotional, or behavioral health diagnosis, however, only 20% of children with a mental health diagnosis receive treatment and over 75% of treatment is provided by school-based providers. In Maryland there is only 1 school psychologist for every 1000 or more students enrolled. School-based mental health services strategically address barriers such as transportation, stigma, and schedule conflicts that would lead to time missed from school by the student or from work by the guardian. We are proud to support this vital legislation as an act of advocacy for health policy that expands access to mental and behavioral healthcare, supports interdisciplinary management of the patient population, and will contribute to improved patient-centered outcomes. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support of SB238 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact and requests a favorable report.**

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state’s pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC, CCRN, CPN; Chapter President

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC, IBCLC; Immediate Past-President

Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS, CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect

SB 238_Commerce_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer LaHatte

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Harry Coker, Jr. | Secretary of Commerce

DATE: February 18, 2026
BILL NO: Senate Bill 238
BILL TITLE: School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 238 improves license portability for school psychology licenses by establishing the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. The Compact would require member states to share necessary information with each other, to establish a process for applicants to obtain a home state license, and to grant equivalent licenses to licensees with home state licenses from other member states. The bill would also establish the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact Commission to maintain the Compact, provide ways for member states to oversee the Compact and resolve disputes, and provide ways to amend or withdraw from the Compact.

Background:

Maryland currently has several pathways for in-state applicants to obtain a license. Licensees typically have to complete a Master’s degree, complete coursework in special education and an internship in school psychology, and receive qualifying test scores. These requirements are already in line with the interstate standards proposed in the bill and thus would not substantially change.

Maryland has licensing options for out-of-state licensees and accepts the existing Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential. Even so, obtaining a Maryland license is difficult for out-of-state school psychologists. Maryland does not have any formal compact or reciprocity agreements with other states. Out-of-state NCSP certified psychologists and those holding out-of-state licenses must still reapply for licensure in Maryland and complete several verifications before they can receive their Maryland license and begin work.

Rationale:

Passage of this bill will improve access to licensure and license portability for school psychologists. The Compact will be an addition to several existing compacts improving license portability across several occupations. License portability is very important to the military community and may affect future Department of Defense (DoD) basing decisions. In FY 2021, Maryland’s military installations contributed \$61.4B to our economy in payroll and expenditures. With 72% of military families living off-base in our communities, this bill will ease the employment of military families and contribute to the overall quality of life for all Marylanders by increasing access to licensed school psychologists.

In addition to license portability, DoD strongly encourages states to adopt interstate compacts for occupational licensure. The Council of State Governments is partnering with DoD and the National Association of School Psychologists to support passage of school psychologist licensure compacts nationwide. To date, legislation has passed in seven states and has been introduced in five others, including Maryland. Passage of SB 238 will keep Maryland competitive as a military family-friendly state and generally for license portability.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 238.

SB238 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Grubb

Position: FAV

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

Senate Interstate Compact MSPA Letter of Support

Uploaded by: Laura Grubb

Position: FAV



Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), Maryland Education Coalition (MEC), and the Blueprint Coalition, strongly support **Senate Bill 0238 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact**. School psychologists (SPs) are uniquely trained to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. In collaboration with families and other school staff, we help create safe and supportive learning environments in which all students can thrive.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist for every 500 students; however Maryland is only able to provide 1 SP for every 1,053 students. This is a significant shortage that negatively impacts our students and communities. Passing the compact will help address this shortage. Attracting more SPs to Maryland will be good for our students, school communities, and the economy.

The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP) is poised to address this shortage by making it easier for qualified SPs to get to work quickly in Maryland. The ICSP simply provides licensure mobility in member states while upholding a high standard of practice, with no fiscal note. It is similar to PSYPACT, which provides the same benefit to licensed psychologists in Maryland and over 30 other states.

Passing this compact **now** comes with distinct advantages for Maryland in three ways. The first is **influence**. The compact is currently being stood up; by coming to the table now Maryland has greater influence on the details (e.g., which test will qualify SPs, etc). The second is **window of opportunity**. The compact is already passed in 7 states and proposed in four more. The compact is coming. The earlier Maryland joins the more likely we are to attract newly mobile members of the workforce who are looking for a change. Finally, this is an important way for legislators to **show support for SPs**, who are not otherwise provided for in the Blueprint. Addressing the shortage goes a long way to making it easier for SPs to do their jobs well.

Although movement across states will fluctuate, we believe Maryland is in a strong position to benefit from this compact. The average SP makes \$10,000 more in Maryland than in any other region in the country. Compared to other states, Maryland has the third highest density of hospitals, fifth highest density of higher education institutions, and a robust military sector. Healthcare providers, academics, researchers, military family members and civilian personnel may be more likely to seek and accept a Maryland job if their spouse can start work right away.

For SPs themselves, **Senate Bill 0238** reduces the financial and administrative burden associated with meeting licensure requirements when moving states, and it enables SPs to quickly begin providing services that will help students.

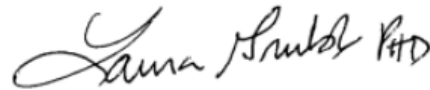
For the above reasons, MSPA, Maryland Education Coalition (MEC), and the Blueprint Coalition respectfully

urge a favorable report on SB 238: a simple way to help address the school psychologist shortage. If we can provide any further information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam M. Ritts, Ed.S., NCSP
President, Maryland School Psychologists' Association



Laura M. Grubb, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA
Legislative Chair, Maryland School Psychologists' Association



Ellie Mitchell and Rick Tyler, Jr.

Co-Chairs, Maryland Education Coalition



SB238_MSEA_Lamb_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FAV

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 238
School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 18, 2026

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 238, which would enter Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. The Compact, developed in a similar manner to the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, would authorize licensed school psychologists who hold multistate licenses to provide school psychological services in member states and establish requirements for multistate licensure.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

School psychologists provide critical behavioral health services that prepare students to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Maryland lacks a sufficient workforce of school psychologists to meet students' needs: though the National Association for School Psychologists recommends a school psychologist-to-student ratio of 1:500, Maryland's ratio stands at 1:1,037.¹ Our state's pipeline of incoming school psychologists is improving, but is still not strong enough remedy this – there are just 0.2 new school psychologists for

¹ NASP Policy Platform. National Association of School Psychologists (2026).
<https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-priorities/nasp-policy-platform#:~:text=Remedy%20for%20Shortages%20in%20School%20Psychology&text=NASP%20recommen ds%20a%20ratio%20of,meet%20the%20needs%20of%20students.>

every 10,000 K-12 students.² Joining the Compact represents a low-cost, near-term measure to increase the number of school psychologists by removing licensing barriers for school psychologists moving from one state to another. Within the Compact, licensed school psychologists would enjoy license reciprocity, enabling Maryland to recruit a greater number of experienced providers.

The Compact currently has seven state members, including neighboring states like West Virginia and Delaware.³ Maryland has an opportunity to lead by becoming the next state to join the Compact, sending a message to students, families, and educators that we recognize the importance of school psychologists and the critical services they provide. We will also continue to advocate for school psychologists and other student health professionals to be compensated as the essential staff they are.

This bill represents an opportunity to remove barriers and welcome licensed, experienced school psychologists to Maryland – it is an opportunity we should take.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 238.

² State Shortages Data Dashboard. NASP (2026). <https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>

³ Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (2026). <https://schoolpsychcompact.org/compact-map/>

SB 238 letter of Support BSU.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Harrison

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF LEGAL & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Senate Bill 230 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Letter of Support

February 18, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

Bowie State University writes in strong support of Senate Bill 230, which would authorize Maryland to join the School Psychologist Interstate Compact. This legislation represents a timely, practical response to the critical shortage of school psychologists in Maryland and across the nation, while maintaining strong professional standards and safeguards.

Maryland's schools are facing increasing student mental-health, learning, and behavioral needs, yet school psychologists routinely manage caseloads far exceeding recommended levels. Many professionals serve multiple schools in a single day, limiting the time they can dedicate to individual students. SB 230 addresses this challenge by reducing unnecessary barriers to workforce mobility by allowing qualified and licensed school psychologists from participating states to begin serving Maryland students more efficiently.

As one of only two Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation offering graduate training in school psychology, Bowie State University views this bill through both a workforce and equity lens. Research consistently demonstrates that diverse school staff improve equity, strengthen student support, and reduce disparities in outcomes. However, the school psychologist workforce remains predominantly white, even as Maryland's student population becomes increasingly diverse. At the same time, black youth face rising mental-health risks, including increasing suicide rates. Expanding access to a broader, more diverse pool of qualified professionals is essential to meeting the needs of all students.

Bowie State University is encouraged that the compact preserves each state's authority over licensure standards, scope of practice, continuing professional education, and discipline. These provisions ensure that professional quality and accountability remain central while creating a smoother pathway for experienced psychologists to relocate to Maryland, including military spouses who often face repeated licensure delays despite being fully credentialed.

Joining the compact also positions Maryland to help shape its implementation rather than adopting rules later without input. Other participating states have reported no additional costs associated with membership, making this a fiscally responsible approach to strengthening student services.

Senate Bill 230 aligns with Bowie State University's commitment to supporting schools, students, and a diverse, well-prepared school psychology workforce. Bowie State University respectfully urges a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration. For questions, please contact **Michael Harrison, Director of Government and Community Relations, Bowie State University**, at **mlharrison@bowiestate.edu**.

SB238-School Psychologist- NAMI MD FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Mills

Position: FAV

February 17, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 60,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a statewide network of more than 60,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a non-profit that is dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for persons with mental illnesses, their families and the wider community.

SB238 enters Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. The School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact would increase access to school psychologists by allowing reciprocity—school psychologists from other states can deliver care in Maryland and Maryland psychologists would be able to deliver care to other states who are a part of the compact.

Serious shortages exist in the mental health professional workforce. The lack of providers exacerbates unmet needs and leaves more people without options for mental health care. It would be to the State's benefit to allow additional licensed school psychologists to practice in Maryland. The compact provides a tool for addressing workforce shortages—and with the severity of our workforce shortage, Maryland should utilize every tool in our toolbox to ensure access to mental health services. We believe that early intervention, recovery, and support should be available to children, adolescents, and young adults living with mental illness. Undiagnosed, untreated, and inadequately treated mental illness significantly interfere with a student's ability to learn, to grow, and to develop. Because children spend much of their productive time in school and services can be integrated into their regular daily routine, NAMI MD believes that both public and private elementary, middle and high schools should provide and/or facilitate and sustain provision of appropriate mental health services, supports, and appropriate accommodations.

By entering the compact, we are increasing the number of school psychologists in the State, who can, in turn, offer services to Marylanders who need them the most.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report

Stephanie Slowly-Little
Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

Contact: Morgan Mills
Compass Government Relations
Mmills@compassadvocacy.com

DVMF SB238 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 238 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
SUPPORT**

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 Miller West Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. Our department supports Senate Bill 238 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

Senate Bill 238 would add Maryland to the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact, enabling licensed school psychologists to continue practicing their skills here in Maryland, allowing military spouses to seamlessly integrate into our Maryland communities and minimize disruptions to their professional lives between moves. According to the national non-profit Blue Star Families, military spouse unemployment stands at 21%, an unacceptable level that has been static for too many years. 600,000 military and veteran families move around the nation and the world every year, uprooting their lives in service of our country. Many move to Maryland with skills and talents that we should be harnessing.

Military families, like all families, increasingly need to be two-income households to thrive and achieve the American Dream. Thriving military families are essential to retaining veterans to continue living here in Maryland. SB 238 goes some way toward making that goal possible. There is no fiscal impact associated with this bill. Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary

Montgomery County Board of Education_SB 238_Support

Uploaded by: Patricia Ursprung

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

15 West Gude Drive ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: Senate Bill 238

TITLE: School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

DATE: February 18, 2026

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) supports Senate Bill 238.

This bill would permit Maryland to join the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact, which allows school psychologists who hold a license in one state to becoming licensed in a member state through an abbreviate process. This eases the burden on a school psychologist who would like to, or needs to, relocate from one state to another by ensuring a smooth process for transferring their license and allowing them to continue serving students without undue delay.

The School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact reduces barriers to license portability and employment for school psychologists. This makes it easier for people to become licensed to work in Maryland, which makes moving to Maryland easier. This is particularly important, given the shortage of school psychologists across the nation. The School Psychologist Interstate Compact would bring School Psychology into alignment with other professions and keep Maryland competitive as an attractive location to practice. Seven states currently participate in the compact, two of which are neighboring states (Delaware and West Virginia). Five states have current legislation filed, or are filing legislation in 2026, to join the compact. These states are Pennsylvania and Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, in addition to Maryland. Montgomery County recruits school psychologists from all over the country but, in particular, from Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Joining the Compact will assist in our recruitment efforts.

As a result of the positive impact the proposed legislation would have on operations in Montgomery County Public Schools, the Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 238ho and requests a **favorable** report.

2026 MASBHC SB 238 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *Senate Bill 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact*. The bill establishes the statutory framework for Maryland to join the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. MASBHC supports licensure compacts as a strategy to address professional shortages in school-based settings. Maryland is already a member of compacts for nurses, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, professional counselors, and occupational therapists. We support the effort to permit Maryland to join the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

2026 MASHN SB 238 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 238 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Position: Support

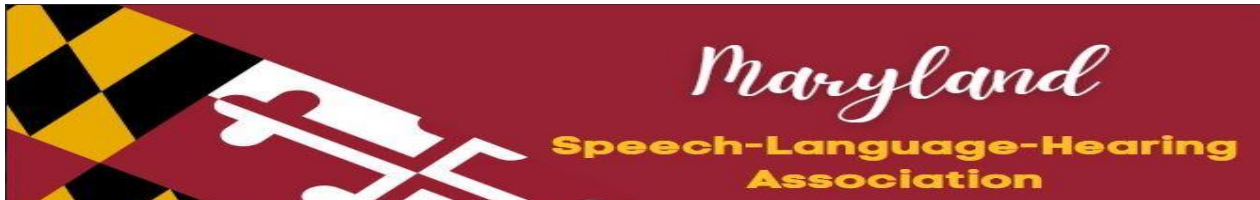
The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *Senate Bill 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact*. This legislation is an important part of Maryland’s strategy to address shortages of health-related professionals in schools. Maryland schools need more school psychologists as they are an important part of the interdisciplinary team supporting the health and wellness of students. School psychologists work alongside school nurses, social workers, counselors, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists to make sure students have the support they need to succeed in their education.

We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

SB0238 HB 0340 MSHA FAV.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Peters

Position: FAV



February 8, 2026

Bill: SB 0238/HB 0340 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development.

We are writing in support of **SB 0238/HB 0340**, which would establish a licensure compact for school psychologists. Occupational licensure compacts allow professionals to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. Compacts address the increased demands for professional services by licensed and highly skilled professionals. Speech language pathologists and audiologists practicing in Maryland are currently part of our professional interstate compact (ASLP-IC).

MSHA is honored to support school psychologists and show solidarity in support of comprehensive healthcare provision. MSHA is writing in support of an interstate compact for school psychologists to address the needs of students and the families they serve.

Thank you for your consideration

Rachael Caruso MS CCC-SLP

MSHA Director of Advocacy and Public Policy

Karen Miranda MS CCC-SLP

MSHA President

Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association
140B Purcellville Gateway Drive, Suite 120
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301-304-7001
info@mdslha.org
www.mdslha.org

MD informational only CSG testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Karuna Lakhiani

Position: INFO



**SB 0238 Informational Testimony
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 16, 2026**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Karuna Lakhiani, and I am a policy associate from the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments (CSG). CSG is a nonpartisan membership association for elected and appointed state government officials from all three branches. CSG, through its National Center for Interstate Compacts, has facilitated the development process for all eighteen of the active occupational licensing compacts, including the nine that Maryland is a member of.

CSG facilitated the development of the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP) as part of a project with the National Association for School Psychologists (NASP) and the United States Department of War.

The ICSP was created to streamline the systems of licensure mobility in members states while upholding a high standard of school psychology practice and would benefit states, state education agencies, school psychologists, and the students and families that school psychologists service.

Through the ICSP, a school psychologist who lives in a compact member state and meets the requirements of the compact may obtain a compact privilege to practice and be issued an equivalent license in another member state. Distribution of compact privileges is expedited by the compact's data system, which is shared solely between the member state licensing authorities. The data system also enhances public protection by offering a mechanism for states to share disciplinary history of licensees.

The primary requirement for school psychologists wanting to voluntarily participate in the compact is to hold an active, unencumbered (i.e., full, unrestricted ability to practice) home state license. For a member state to be eligible to join the compact, a state must require that applicants for a home state active license must have 1) taken and passed a qualifying national exam, 2) graduated from a qualifying school psychologist education program, and 3) complete the minimum-required hours of supervised internship specified in the compact.

School psychologists holding a compact eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive an equivalent license without initially submitting additional materials, taking state-specific exams, or completing additional coursework; nevertheless, state-specific requirements need to be satisfied after receiving the equivalent license.



National Center for Interstate Compacts

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Given that Maryland has multiple pathways toward licensure and at least one of those pathways meet the exact requirements of the compact, Maryland would not need to change licensing requirements to be a participatory member of the compact.

The ICSP was first made available for enactment in December of 2023. As of February 16, 2025, the compact has been enacted in seven states. There is also legislation currently filed in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. The compact commission has officially been convened and recently began the development process in late January.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on SB 0238. CSG is available to assist with any questions regarding the ICSP or interstate compact policy.

Respectfully,

Karuna Lakhiani, Policy Associate
National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments