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Support SB 500
Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

Senator Clarence Lam

Why SB 500 is Needed

- We are in the midst of a mental health and substance use crisis, which has only been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- States typically require that all psychologists are licensed by their Board of Examiners in order to practice in the state, including practicing via telehealth.
- This creates continuity-of-care problems when psychologists and patients live across state lines, which is particularly common in Maryland. For example, if a young person has a psychologist in Maryland, but then goes to college in Pennsylvania, they cannot keep seeing their psychologist via telehealth.
- This can also lead to access-to-care issues, especially for people living in rural areas and for people who need specialized care (for example, children with autism spectrum disorder).
- Psychologists often treat individuals experiencing conditions that can, when triggered, lead to crises like substance use or suicide. Being able to support patients across state lines saves lives.

What SB 500 Does

- SB 500 joins Maryland into PSYPACT, an interjurisdictional compact of psychologists.
- PSYPACT allows licensed psychologists who go through PSYPACT's approval process to practice telehealth into other PSYPACT states, and to practice 30 days total of in-person psychology in other PSYPACT states.
- PSYPACT's licensing requirements are as strict or stricter than Maryland's licensing requirements. Under PSYPACT, Maryland's patient safety laws (duty to warn, child

abuse reporting, etc.) would supersede for psychologists practicing telehealth into Maryland. All patients in Maryland will be protected by Maryland's laws, regardless of where the psychologist is located.

- PSYPACT also includes clear guidance on which state's scope-of-practice laws supersede.
- PSYPACT includes clear guidelines around how complaints will be investigated.

Current Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Laws

- Fourteen states and DC have formally joined PSYPACT.
- 4 of the 5 states surrounding Maryland have joined PSYPACT (PA, DE, VA, DC).
- Legislation has been introduced in another fifteen states, including Maryland, to join PSYPACT.
- PSYPACT has been endorsed by the American Psychological Association, the American Board of Professional Psychology, the American Telemedicine Association, and the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.