



WHITNEY C. HOBSON, PSYD
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

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FEBRUARY 11, 2021

THE HONORABLE PAUL G. PINKSY, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE CHERYL C. KAGAN, VICE-CHAIR
2 WEST, MILLERSENATE OFFICE BULDING
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Dear Senators Pinsky and Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

My name is Dr. Whitney C. Hobson and I am a licensed psychologist here in Maryland. I am a staff psychologist at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County as well as an independent contractor in a group practice in Towson, MD; I have been in both positions since 2016. I am writing to request your support for SB 500, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact which will come before your committee next week.

The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, or PSYPACT, is an interstate compact designed to increase access to mental health care services through the use of telepsychology. It does so by creating a process to approve and regulate the delivery of telepsychology and the temporary practice of psychology in other PSYPACT states. Research has shown these services are effective, and offer additional benefits such as increased accessibility, flexibility, and affordability. PSYPACT is currently enacted in 16 states/jurisdictions: Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, Georgia, Delaware, Texas, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and North Carolina (effective 3/1/2021).

Maryland is the only jurisdiction in our region which is not yet included in PSYPACT - the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia are all active PSYPACT members. West Virginia is expected to introduce PSYPACT in this legislative session.

PSYPACT will benefit Maryland's residents who live near bordering states and the District of Columbia, those in rural areas, those who lack access to specialty care (addictions, autism spectrum disorder, language barriers), those with transportation or mobility issues, individuals with significant time constraints such as caregivers, and those concerned about seeking treatment due to potential stigma of mental health care.

It's my hope that PSYPACT will receive a favorable vote in the committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at exec@marylandpsychology.org

Sincerely,

Whitney C. Hobson, PsyD