

# **SB 500**

## **Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact**

--

Senator Clarence Lam, District 12

# Psychologist Licensing Laws in Maryland

- Typically, psychologists must be licensed in each state in which they practice
  - Psychologists cannot practice telehealth into states in which they are not licensed
- State's Board of Examiners of Psychologists issues licenses and investigates complaints

# What does SB 500 do?

- Adds Maryland to the PSYPACT interstate compact
  - **DC, PA, DE, and VA are currently members**
- Allows licensed **doctoral-level psychologists** in Maryland to practice telehealth into other PSYPACT States
- Allows licensed **doctoral-level psychologists** from other PSYPACT states to practice telehealth into Maryland
- Allows licensed doctoral-level psychologists to conduct 30 days per year of **in-person treatment** in other PSYPACT states
- Clearly specifies which state laws supersede in different circumstances
- Clearly specifies how disciplinary action will occur in the event of a complaint

# Why should Maryland join PSYPACT?

- **Continuity of care**

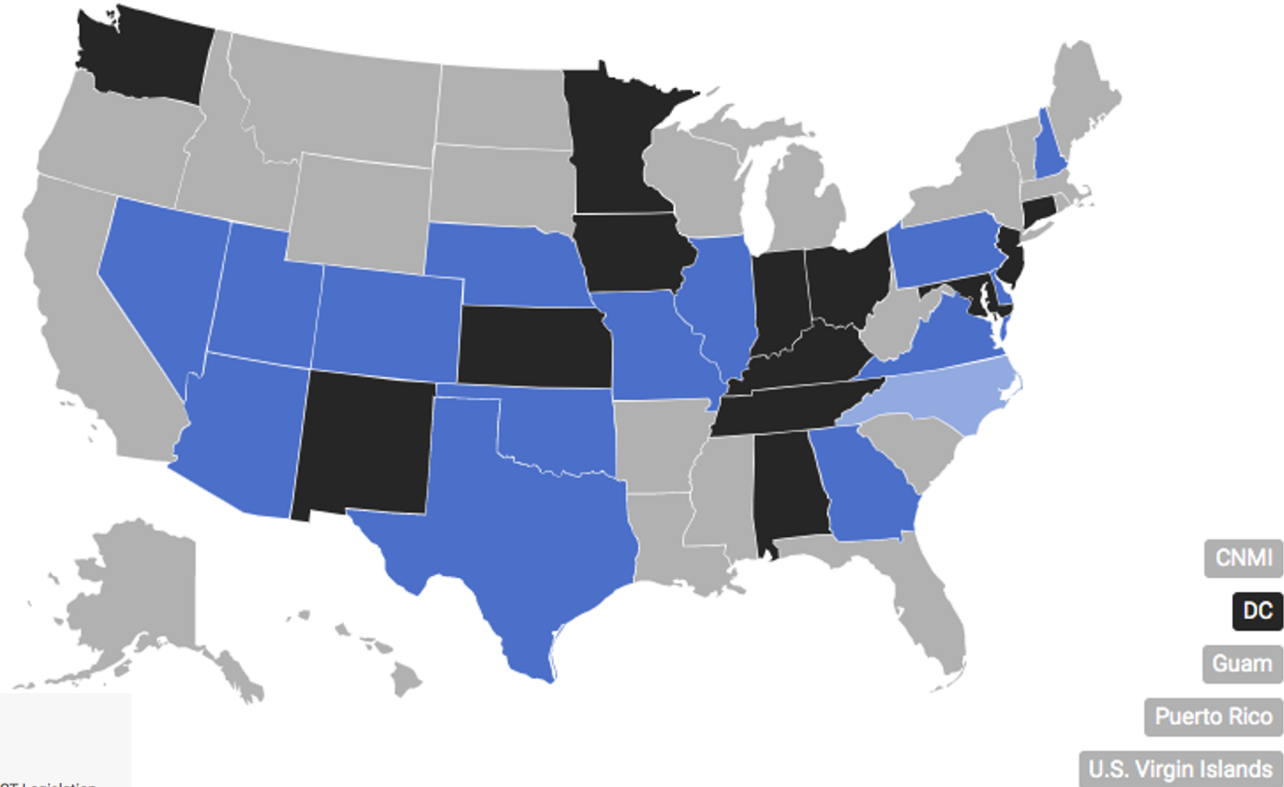
- Young people who go to college in a different state
- Children with parents living in different states
- Crisis response when someone lives across state lines
- Lack of reliable transportation or inclement weather

- **Access to care**

- Increases access to qualified psychologists
- Especially important in rural areas
- Especially important for those who require specialty care (autism spectrum disorder, etc.)



# Many states have joined or are considering legislation to join PSYPACT:



# Will PSYPACT allow a psychologist with lesser credentials to practice into Maryland?

- No.
- PSYPACT's licensing requirements are **as strict or stricter** than Maryland's licensing requirements.

# **Will PSYPACT endanger patients by allowing out-of-state psychologists to avoid Maryland's laws?**

- No.
- For patient safety issues like duty-to-warn (warning authorities if a patient is a danger to themselves or others) and child abuse reporting statutes **Maryland's laws supersede when psychologists are practicing into Maryland via telehealth.**