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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 911 - Health Occupations - Psychologists - Doctoral Degree

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 911.

House Bill 911 is a workforce development bill for the mental health workforce here in Maryland. This bill allows for post-doctoral clinical re-specialization training, in appropriate programs, to enable psychologists to meet the educational requirements for license. This path to licensure would only be offered to individuals who already have a doctoral degree in psychology. By creating this additional avenue for psychologists to become clinically licensed, the mental health workforce in the state will safely and effectively increase by number of licensed clinical psychologists.

This pathway for meeting education requirements for clinical licensure for doctoral psychologists is already standard in 40 states throughout the country as well as within the Federal government, within the VA, and the Military.

The advocates and the Board of Examiners spent many hours with bill drafting to revise the bill to address the concerns of all stakeholders. The bill before you represents consensus by all stakeholders and all stakeholders are now in full support of the bill.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 911.