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April 5, 2022

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Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

2 West

Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 911 - SUPPORT**

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

##### ***Representative to APA Council***

Peter Smith, PsyD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the **Health, Education, and Environmental Affairs Committee to FAVORABLY report on HB 911 as it came over from the House.**

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HB 911 would allow an efficient mechanism for doctoral level Psychologists who did not specialize in the provision of clinical care to clients to obtain the training and experience necessary to deliver those services to the public under the auspices of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

This bill is a small step towards providing **increased access to mental health care** for Marylanders. As a result of the recent and ongoing pandemic, it has become clear that the need for mental health services is fast outstripping the ability of currently licensed providers to provide mental health care to those in need. Not only must we increase access to care, but we must be careful to maintain the quality of mental health care that is delivered to our citizens. Increasing access to care while disregarding the quality of care is not helpful and is likely to prove harmful to those who might receive substandard care. This bill ensures that those who seek a respecialization certificate are required to meet the same standards as those who are graduated from degree programs that are accredited by both the American Psychological Association and the Canadian Psychological Association.

Lastly, this bill was written to minimize the administrative impact on the Maryland Board of Psychological Examiners while providing an avenue for increased access to quality mental health care.

For these reasons, and many others, the **MPA STRONGLY urges the Health, Education, and Environmental Affairs Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 911.** Please feel free to contact

MPA's Government Affairs Representatives Barbara Brocato at [barbara@bmbassoc.com](mailto:barbara@bmbassoc.com) or Dan Shattuck at [dans@bmbassoc.com](mailto:dans@bmbassoc.com) if we can be of assistance.

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Sincerely,

*Linda McGhee*

Linda McGhee, Psy.D., JD

President

*R. Patrick Savage, Jr.*

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs