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February 22, 2022

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Health and Government Operations Committee

House Office Building, Rm 241

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Annapolis, MD 21401

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RE: HB 911 - SUPPORT with Sponsor Amendment

Treasurer

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

Representatives-at-large

Shalena Heard, PhD

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the **House Health and Government Operations Committee to FAVORABLY report on HB 911 with the following Sponsor Amendment:**

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

(II) A **PRACTICE-ORIENTED** POSTDOCTORAL RESPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE [FROM A PROGRAM THAT AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS AWARDED WAS OFFERED THROUGH] **WHICH WAS ISSUED BY A DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY THAT AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED HAD A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT WAS [IS] ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OR THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION;**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

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Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

HB 911 allows an efficient and effective mechanism for individuals who obtained a doctoral degree in psychology, but did not specialize in the provision of clinical care to clients, to obtain the education, training, and experience necessary to deliver clinical services and meet the criteria set for licensure by Maryland law.

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

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. This bill ensures that those who seek a respecialization certificate meet the same standards as those who graduated from degree programs that are accredited by both the American Psychological Association and the Canadian Psychological Association.

Ethics

Cindy Sandler, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Selena Snow, PhD

Finally, we believe this bill minimizes the administrative impact on the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists while providing an avenue for increased access to quality mental health care.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

For these reasons, and many others, the **MPA STRONGLY urges the House Health and Government Operations Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 911.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stefanie Reeves, CAE

Please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at exec@marylandpsychology.org if we can be of assistance.

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