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Health and Government Operations  
Committee  
Subcommittees

Health Occupations and Long-Term Care

Public Health and  
Minority Health Disparities

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 26 - Health Occupations - Psychologists - Doctoral Degree**

Good afternoon Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 26.

House Bill 26 is a workforce development bill for the behavioral health workforce here in Maryland. This bill would allow for post-doctoral clinical re-specialization training, in appropriate programs, to enable psychologists to meet the educational requirements for licensure. By creating this additional avenue for psychologists to become clinically licensed, the behavioral 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 Maryland's surrounding states as well as within the Federal government, within the VA, and the Military. Around 40 states have open criteria allowing requirements to be met without a full re-specialization.

An amendment was made to House Bill 26 in the House which clarifies an internship requirement for certain licensure candidates. The bill passed unanimously out of the House, and I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 26.