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March 17, 2023

Delegate Joseline A Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, RM 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 349 - State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – License and Registration Issuance and Renewals-Electronic Means

Position: **Support**

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

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in support of **Senate Bill 349**, which would allow the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (SBEP) to issue electronic licenses and registrations; repeal the requirement that the Board include certain information on each license and registration; and require the Board to send renewal notices by first-class mail if the electronic notice is returned as undeliverable, or on a specific request by the registrant.

This bill appears to be another important step towards increasing the efficient processing of individuals seeking licensure or registration in Maryland as psychologists or psychological associates. Specifically, **Senate Bill 349** will make it easier and more efficient for psychologists and psychological associates seeking either a first-time license/registration or renewal of their license/registration. Moreover, it will allow the SBEP to streamline their own process by reducing the information required on the licensing/registration application and save money in printing costs and postage fees. This change would also make it easier for both the SBEP and applicants to more easily and accurately track the process of licensing/registering those who wish to practice psychology in Maryland. Finally, the change to electronic processing will allow anyone who would prefer to continue receiving licensing materials by mail to opt out of the new system by contacting SBEP.

For the reasons noted above the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on **Senate Bill 349**.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 19. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativecommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

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