



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: 410-992-7732. www.marylandpsychology.org

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

Rebecca Resnick, PsyD,

President-elect

Brian Corrado, PsyD

Past President

Linda McGhee, PhD, JD

Secretary

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Treasurer

Melinda Capaldi, PsyD

Representatives-at-large

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representative to APA

Council Peter Smith, PsyD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, PhD

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas Cote, MBA, CAE

Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 28, 2023

RE: House Bill 812– Reproductive Health Services-Protected Information and Insurance Requirements

Position: Support

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

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, is writing to express SUPPORT for House Bill 812 – Reproductive Health Services Protected Information and Insurance Requirements, which will enable all healthcare providers, including those that provide mental health services, to be able to honor the confidentiality and privacy of the patients that we see, particularly those that have sought out reproductive care.

A fundamental part of the therapeutic relationship—the part that distinguishes it from a close friendship—is the guarantee that clinicians will keep all information shared with them private. This core concept of therapy enables a therapeutic alliance to be created: where a client can feel safe within the therapeutic space. This bill enables assurances to clients that their reproductive information isn't seen as separate or different than any other private confidence that a client might share with their clinician.

Psychologists are often allied health professionals that clients will turn to in order to help them understand and make important decisions, including those that pertain to reproduction. With the state of reproductive health so tenuous in other states, we applaud lawmakers in Maryland for adding protections for providers and patients rather than stripping them away. We strongly **SUPPORT HB 812**, and request that the bill receives a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 812. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Pat Savage, MPA's Legislative Chair, at mpalegislativcommittee@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