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Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate David Moon, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, MD 21401
March 4, 2023

RE: House Bill 808 – The Reproductive Health Protection Act

Position: Support

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, 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 808 – The Reproductive Health Protection Act, which will protect Maryland healthcare providers, that are providing legal healthcare, from being prosecuted in another state whose laws differ from those in Maryland.

Psychologists are in a unique position with the passage of PSYPACT two years ago, which enabled them to legally offer support, counsel and intervention with clients in states that are also part of the Compact. Many of these PSYPACT states have laws that are increasingly more restrictive around specific decisions that adversely impact an individual's right to reproductive healthcare. This bill enables psychologists in Maryland that are part of PSYPACT or otherwise licensed in states, that have a different view about reproductive health, to be able to support clients and be a resource without fearing penalty for doing our jobs as helpers and healers.

Psychologists are health professionals that clients will often 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 options for patients rather than stripping them away. We strongly **SUPPORT HB 808**, and request that the bill receives a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 808. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage 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