



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

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House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 28, 2023

RE: Senate Bill 859– The Reproductive Health Protection Act

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 **Senate Bill 859– 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, where they can 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 healthcare decisions that adversely impact one sex over the other. 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 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 options for patients rather than stripping them away. We strongly **SUPPORT Senate Bill 859**, and request that the bill receives a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.

Thank you for considering our comments on **Senate Bill 859**. 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