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January 30, 2023

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Finance Committee

3 East, Miller Senate Office Building

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Annapolis, MD 21401

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**RE: SB 0014 Health Occupations - Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors - Licensure**

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Position: **Letter of Concern**

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

**Representatives-at-large**

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, offers to the House Health, and Government Operations Committee a **LETTER OF CONCERN on Senate Bill 14**.

**Representative to APA Council**

Peter Smith, PsyD

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**Communications**

Robyn Waxman, PhD

SB 0014 as currently written, may inadvertently narrow the field of qualified applicants for Clinical and Graduate Alcohol Counselors. We are concerned that this bill may exclude adequately trained students with master's degrees from other human service fields beyond professional counseling. While we await word from their Board, we want to express our desire to obtain clarification about any potential consequences that may narrow the field of applicants coming from different academic fields. We are sure you are aware of the shortage of providers for mental health and substance abuse that exists today. If this bill excludes adequately trained students with master's degrees from other human service fields, the effect of this bill may be a step in the wrong direction as we work together to improve access to mental health and substance abuse care in Maryland.

**Diversity**

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

**Early Career Psychologist**

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

**Educational Affairs**

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Thank you for considering our comments and proposed amendments on S 0014. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at [mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com).

**Ethics**

Colleen Byrne, PhD

**Legislative**

Pat Savage, PhD

Respectfully submitted,

**Membership**

Linda Herbert, PhD

*Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.*

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

**Professional Practice**

Karin Cleary, PhD

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

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

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cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

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