

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
House Health Committee  
240-241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of M Pease, M.S.

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**House Bill #1021:** Health Occupations - Licensed Psychologists - Prescriptive Authority

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable members of the House Health Committee:

I am a Ph.D. candidate in counseling psychology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Over the course of my training toward becoming a psychologist, I have provided therapeutic services under supervision to communities across the State of Maryland for nearly four years.

In my practice, I have seen firsthand the need for integrated, comprehensive mental health services. Our communities are facing increasing demands for mental health support, including medication management, yet often face barriers to this care including long wait times and lack of available providers for referrals.

As a trainee, I am also experiencing the depth of training doctoral-level psychologists complete. This training, which generally takes over a decade for full independent licensure, provides psychologists with unique clinical expertise to provide holistic, client-centered, multiculturally competent healthcare.

This existing competence, when combined with the additional training provided for under this legislation, could uniquely position psychologists to meet this moment of need and provide the evidence-based standard of care as prescribers, as is already the case in seven states and several Federal jurisdictions.

Thinking of my own future career, I intend to be one of the psychologists to answer the call to make this care more accessible to Marylanders should this bill pass. I would be honored to have the opportunity to pursue further training and supervised experience to serve Marylanders as a prescribing psychologist. I urge a **favorable report** on HB 1021 because all Marylanders deserve access to the mental health services they need to thrive.

Sincerely,  
M Pease, M.S.  
Ph.D. Candidate in Counseling Psychology  
University of Maryland, College Park