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PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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February 9, 2026

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Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: House Bill 340 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Position: Support

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

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, is writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 340 - School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

The bill will help to address Maryland's current growing shortage of school psychologists, who provide essential behavioral health services to our students. The proposed interstate compact will remove many of the current barriers facing qualified school psychologists from other states who seek to work here, while maintaining the high licensing standards that Maryland maintains for these professionals. The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists simply provides licensure mobility for qualified school psychologists in member states. In that regard, this compact is similar to PSYPACT, which provides the same benefit to Health Department-licensed psychologists in Maryland and over 30 other states. This Compact is also closely modeled after the Interstate Teacher Compact, already in place in Maryland and many other states.

Admittedly, this is a very long bill – the full language of the Compact is included, as it must be adopted in essentially this form by all the states that join the Compact. But participating in the Compact is unlikely to be burdensome for the Department of Education, and it will serve to reduce MSDE's workload in processing credentialing applications from out-of-state applicants. The Compact is designed to be self-sustaining through fees paid by the applicants. States enrolled in the Interstate Teacher Compact have not reported increased costs, and many are finding that their time to process out-of-state applicants has been substantially reduced, resulting in both cost savings and improved recruitment results by local school districts. And finally, military spouses with this credential moving to Maryland from Compact states will immediately qualify for employment as school psychologists here.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 340. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of MPA's Legislative Committee, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
President

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs