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House Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 340 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Letter of Support

February 11, 2026

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

Bowie State University writes in strong support of House Bill 340, which would authorize Maryland to join the School Psychologist Interstate Compact. This legislation represents a timely, practical response to the critical shortage of school psychologists in Maryland and across the nation, while maintaining strong professional standards and safeguards.

Maryland's schools are facing increasing student mental-health, learning, and behavioral needs, yet school psychologists routinely manage caseloads far exceeding recommended levels. Many professionals serve multiple schools in a single day, limiting the time they can dedicate to individual students. HB 340 addresses this challenge by reducing unnecessary barriers to workforce mobility by allowing qualified and licensed school psychologists from participating states to begin serving Maryland students more efficiently.

As one of only two Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation offering graduate training in school psychology, Bowie State University views this bill through both a workforce and equity lens. Research consistently demonstrates that diverse school staff improve equity, strengthen student support, and reduce disparities in outcomes. However, the school psychologist workforce remains predominantly white, even as Maryland's student population becomes increasingly diverse. At the same time, black youth face rising mental-health risks, including increasing suicide rates. Expanding access to a broader, more diverse pool of qualified professionals is essential to meeting the needs of all students.

Bowie State University is encouraged that the compact preserves each state's authority over licensure standards, scope of practice, continuing professional education, and discipline. These provisions ensure that professional quality and accountability remain central while creating a smoother pathway for experienced psychologists to relocate to Maryland, including military spouses who often face repeated licensure delays despite being fully credentialed.

Joining the compact also positions Maryland to help shape its implementation rather than adopting rules later without input. Other participating states have reported no additional costs associated with membership, making this a fiscally responsible approach to strengthening student services.

House Bill 340 aligns with Bowie State University's commitment to supporting schools, students, and a diverse, well-prepared school psychology workforce. Bowie State University respectfully urges a favorable report on this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration. For questions, please contact **Michael Harrison, Director of Government and Community Relations, Bowie State University**, at mlharrison@bowiestate.edu.