



August 2026

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Oppose New York State Entry into Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact

Dear Governor Hochul,

As a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), I urge you to veto legislation recently passed by both houses of the State Legislature that would authorize New York state to enter the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (S.7136 by Sen. Skoufis/A.6744 by Asm. Simone).

PEF supports increasing access to mental health services for all New Yorkers and PEF is concerned that there may be limitations for New Yorkers temporarily residing in other states to access their psychologist residing in New York. This legislation, however, does not require an existing patient-provider relationship to exist. In fact, this legislation is much more expansive than simply addressing issues around maintaining the continuity of care between clients and providers.

Currently, each state sets up the requirements for licensed psychologists and they vary. This legislation would authorize any individual licensed to practice psychology in any compact state to practice psychology in New York or any other compact state and to authorize such practitioners to render direct telepsychology to New Yorkers. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) – the licensing entity -- is an association of professionals, not a regulatory body. ASPPB is not a governmental entity and is not directly accountable to consumers or policymakers in any way.

PEF is also concerned about the general oversight and regulation of the profession across state lines and the ability to hold individuals accountable for adherence to individual state laws regulating the profession, especially in regard to women's health care access and gender-affirming care. Because there is no uniform governmental oversight of the practitioners in the compact, individual states are responsible for regulating the profession by identifying and pursuing disciplinary procedures against practitioners from other states, most of whom will be practicing remotely via telepsychology. This creates real quality control issues.

This legislation would also result in the funneling of resources to service providers in other states. While PEF supports tools to maintain the continuity of care through existing patient-client relationships, this legislation establishes a wholly new provider network. While privileges for in-person, face-to-face treatment is limited to 30 days in any calendar year, there are no limitations on the duration of treatments rendered by telepsychology. The potential competition for clients from out-of-state providers could have a negative impact on psychological and other health care providers here in New York.

New York has a long and proud history of providing comprehensive, taxpayer-supported mental health services to qualifying residents. At a time when New York's Medicaid and other federal funding is threatened by Congress and the state grapples with the challenges of providing taxpayer-supported insurance coverage to low-income New Yorkers, it would seem incongruent to allow out-of-state psychologists in states with lesser benefit structures to market their services and receive such payments from New Yorkers.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to veto this legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____