

A4205 which enters New Jersey into Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A4500/4205_I1.PDF

Dear Assemblyman Greenwald -

In July 2020, the NJPA Executive Board approved to support the PsyPact bill A4205, then on September 18, 2020 increased the position to actively support. This new position requires the full resources of NJPA behind a bill, including, financial support, grassroots activation, NJPA written communication, and preparing testimony to present at legislative hearings. NJPA's government affairs agent shall actively lobby sponsor(s), committees, legislature, and the governor's office. We appreciate your office reaching out to us in October asking for PsyPact data and support for this initiative.

Below are some helpful links to PsyPact resources that address points such as background information, model legislation, talking points, frequently asked questions, sample testimony, the importance of PsyPact during this pandemic, and a map of the PsyPact legislation progress by state.

PsyPact Legislative Kit -

https://cdn.ymaws.com/psypact.org/resource/resmgr/legislative_resources/psypact_resource_kit_2.20.20.pdf

PsyPact during a Mental Health Crisis -

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.asppb.net/resource/resmgr/psypact_docs/Why_PSYFACT_is_Important.pdf

PsyPact Map of States Adoption Statistics - <https://psypact.org/page/psypactmap>

We are also sharing three anecdotes illustrating how PsyPact will help with access to and continuity of mental health care.

NJPA President-Elect, Dr. Daniel Lee - "from a college counseling perspective, many of our out of state students who are attending class online and want to continue their mental health services, despite being out of state. PsyPact will allow us to continue that practice without the need for executive orders. In state students have similar issues, especially in south jersey where poorer students struggle with transportation issues and don't have the ability to access available resources on campus. We have professionals who may need to work from their physical home locations which can be out of state in some cases and those professionals need to be covered by PsyPact to ensure continued access to care."

NJPA Past-Present, Dr. Barry Katz, - "I am frequently called upon to do evaluations of individuals in other states who have children involved in the New Jersey courts. These parents, relatives and children are often not able to travel to New Jersey to complete their evaluations for the court. This includes children who have difficulty with long trips, and would be best served by the evaluator coming to their home and assessing them in their safe environment. I have offered to go to these other states to

conduct these evaluations so that the needs of these individuals are expressed and their voices are heard and presented to the Court. Unfortunately, in many states there is extensive red tape and assorted restrictions that make access extremely difficult, even though it is acknowledged that I meet their licensing criteria. This has resulted in many of these individuals in these other states not being able to have the assessments needed and thus not being able to present their relevant views and necessary data to the New Jersey courts. This also results in the State of New Jersey having to pay transportation and housing fees for a whole family, rather than pay the transportation fees of just one individual (the psychologist)."

NJPA member, Dr. Neuza Maria Serra – *"For those of us working in college mental health, being able to continue to work students across state lines is crucial. When the pandemic hit, school suddenly send their students home, therefore there was not time to properly terminate, search for referrals in other states, etc. There is also a hodge-podge of state laws and regulations which keep shifting, making it a treacherous terrain to navigate, as we are frantically trying to not abandon clients, but also not run afoul of the law and board regulations. To further complicate matters, even during normal times, out of state students often go back to their homes during the summer or holiday breaks. Prior to the Pandemic, that meant that we could not continue to see the student the two months that they were away. It is highly disruptive to treatment to have students have to switch to a new provider for a month or two and then return to therapy at their local counseling center."*

NJPA looks forward to further helping your office with support for this initiative. Please let us know what other information you might need to solicit support for this bill.

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