



March 12, 2026

The Honorable Zack Fields, Co-Chair
The Honorable Carolyn Hall, Co-Chair
Labor and Commerce Committee
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: The Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) endorses HB 352

Dear Representative Fields and Representative Hall:

The Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) is pleased to endorse HB 352 (Healthcare Licensing Compacts).

As the largest professional organization of psychologists and allied mental health workers in Alaska, we believe there are many potential benefits of joining the 41 member states of the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). As members of the Labor and Commerce Committee are aware, PSYPACT facilitates the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person practice of psychology across state boundaries. PSYPACT is also designed to protect the independent licensing authority and regulatory role of psychology licensing boards in each member state.

A majority of our members that participated in a recent survey *strongly support* joining PSYPACT. We anticipate the following benefits will have the greatest impact on the public and on the psychology profession in Alaska:

- *Continuity of care for patients:* Due to our unique geography and workforce, Alaskans frequently travel to the Lower 48. Joining the compact would permit psychologists with PSYPACT credentials to continue remote treatment of these individuals via telepsychology without interruption.
- *Increased access to care for rural Alaskans:* Joining PSYPACT would expand the pool of telepsychological services available to our rural communities, particularly for specialized mental health services that are otherwise hard to access.
- *Professional mobility:* By joining the compact, psychologists moving to Alaska from other PSYPACT member states would not be forced to give up their authority to practice telepsychology across jurisdictions—protecting an important professional benefit that will help Alaska attract talent from across the country.

Most of our members believe the compact's benefits will outweigh potential concerns about its implementation. However, AK-PA is working to address two concerns about PSYPACT raised by our membership. First, we are in contact with representatives from PSYPACT and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) to confirm that graduates of the doctoral program in counseling psychology at Alaska Pacific University will be eligible to seek PSYPACT credentials through the recently expanded pathways for qualification.¹ Any assistance your committee can provide in verifying this information would be greatly appreciated by our members. Second, AK-PA is committed to promoting culturally competent psychological practice in the state; we are therefore developing a plan to disseminate continuing education material for outside psychologists who wish to practice in Alaska via PSYPACT. We hope to coordinate this effort with the state licensing board, who will have input in any compact implementation.

During testimony earlier this week, the committee also sought additional information about the relative efficacy of telepsychological services compared to in-person services. Fortunately, there is a wealth of empirical data about the effectiveness of telepsychology. For example, a recent meta-analysis² of data from over 2,000 patients demonstrated that therapy delivered remotely via telehealth produced equivalent outcomes when compared to in-person services.³ This is consistent with many years of clinical research supporting the efficacy of telepsychology.

We thank you for the opportunity to attend your committee and testify about how passage of HB 352 will enhance the practice of psychology in Alaska. Please contact us if there is any additional information we can provide in support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Ruddy Taylor, PhD
Board President
Alaska Psychological Association

¹ As outlined in Sec. 4.B.3.f of the *ASPPB Mobility Program Policies and Procedures v7.2025*, <https://asppb.net/wp-content/uploads/ASPPB-Mobility-Policies-and-Procedures-7.2025-2.pdf>

² Meta-analysis is a method of aggregating the results of many independent clinical trials. Meta-analysis articles are considered an authoritative source for understanding “what works” in clinical science.

³ Lin T, Heckman TG, Anderson T. The efficacy of synchronous teletherapy versus in-person therapy: A meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*. 2022;29(2):167–178. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cps0000056>