

## Remarks for Senate Bill 1305

Senate Health & Welfare Committee

2/24/22

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. Good afternoon. My name is Lance Giles, and I am a contract lobbyist based in Boise, Idaho.

Today, I am here on behalf of my client, the Idaho Psychological Association, and I am urging you to send Senate Bil 1305 to the full Senate with a due-pass recommendation.

The proposed legislation would allow Idaho to participate in an interstate compact for the delivery of psychological services.

PSYPACT allows Idaho Psychologists the opportunity to work across state lines in 27 other states and at the same time allows licensed Psychologists from 27 other states the opportunity to provide mental health services to Idahoans.

PSYPACT is another way to help meet the behavioral health services shortage in Idaho. It does not override other Idaho laws or rules regarding telehealth. It is simply

another pathway to receive and deliver psychological services. In addition, it is completely voluntary as to whether a psychologist participates in PSYPACT. Moreover, all fees will be paid by the applicants.

PSYPACT is the “gold standard” for receiving out-of-state psychology services. It gives Idaho patients and consumers the confidence that the Psychologist from whom they are receiving treatment is legitimate. PSYPACT psychologists are thoroughly vetted for training and practice history. Idahoans can easily check the qualifications of their Psychologist at the Compact Website: [verifypsypact.org](http://verifypsypact.org).

PSYPACT has many benefits. For example, it gives rural patients more convenient access to psychological services. All they need is a signal and a device to connect with a Psychologist.

It gives Idahoans access to specialists that do not reside in Idaho. This is very helpful to patients that have a rare diagnosis or unique treatment needs.

PSYPACT also gives mobile Idahoans like snowbirds, students, and others the continuity of care when they leave the state for short periods of time.

And finally, the U.S. Military is very supportive of PSYPACT because their mobile population, including their families, can continue to use their same psychologist when moving across state lines.

In drafting this bill, we consulted with the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses and they have no objections to the legislation.

Again, I urge you to send Senate Bill 1305 to the full Senate with a due-pass recommendation, and I stand for questions.