



## WHITNEY B. DAMRON, P.A.

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### TESTIMONY

#### Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

#### HB 2209

**An Act concerning the behavioral sciences; relating to psychology; practice and licensing thereof; enacting the psychological interjurisdictional compact; provision for interjurisdictional authorization to practice telepsychology and temporary in-person, face-to-face psychology.**

**Whitney Damron  
on behalf of the  
Kansas Psychology Association**  
[www.kpsych.org](http://www.kpsych.org)

**March 24, 2021**

Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association, representing doctoral-level psychologists in Kansas since 1930, we appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2209, which would allow the State of Kansas through the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board's oversight to become a part of the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (PsyPact), allowing for interstate telepsychology and limited in-person, face-to-face psychology.

I would like to provide a brief introduction to this legislation and then allow Janet Orwig, the executive director of PsyPact to speak, as she is the best resource for what PsyPact is, what it allows and how the multistate practice of telepsychology and limited in-state practice is regulated.

First of all, HB 2209 and PsyPact has nothing to do with insurance or reimbursement for services. This legislation is enabling legislation to allow Kansas doctoral-level psychologists to engage in telepsychology and limited in-state practice in compact states through a uniform regulatory process administered by PsyPact.

This kind of regulatory framework for interstate licensing of professionals is not new to Kansas, which has previously adopted legislative authority for three other compacts:

- Medicine: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Nursing: Nurse Licensure Compact
- Emergency Management: The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Compact

In addition, there are two unrelated compact bills currently making their way through the Legislature this year as well:

- SB 77, Audiology and Speech Pathology, considered by this Committee and approved by the Senate on a vote of 35-3; and,
- HB 2279, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, which was approved by the House on a vote of 122-2 and also being heard today in this Committee.

As you will hear in testimony, to date 18 states have adopted PsyPact Model Legislation, including the four states surrounding Kansas. In addition, there are at least 13 states, including Kansas and Iowa considering PsyPact legislation this year.

In the House Health and Human Services Committee, the BSRB expressed concerns with their ability to implement the provisions of HB 2209 upon publication in the statute book, July 1, 2021 as originally proposed. At our request, the enactment date was changed to January 1, 2022 when the Committee considered the bill. That was the only amendment to the original bill.

The House passed HB 2209 on a vote of 121-3.

With this introduction, I will defer to Janet Orwig and other conferees who will provide the Committee with a thorough background of PsyPact and respond to your questions.

Thank you.

WBD

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Presenter:

Janet P. Orwig, MBA, CAE  
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Oral/Virtual