

Comments on PSYPACT

Senate Health and Social Services Committee
March 31, 2026

Presented by:
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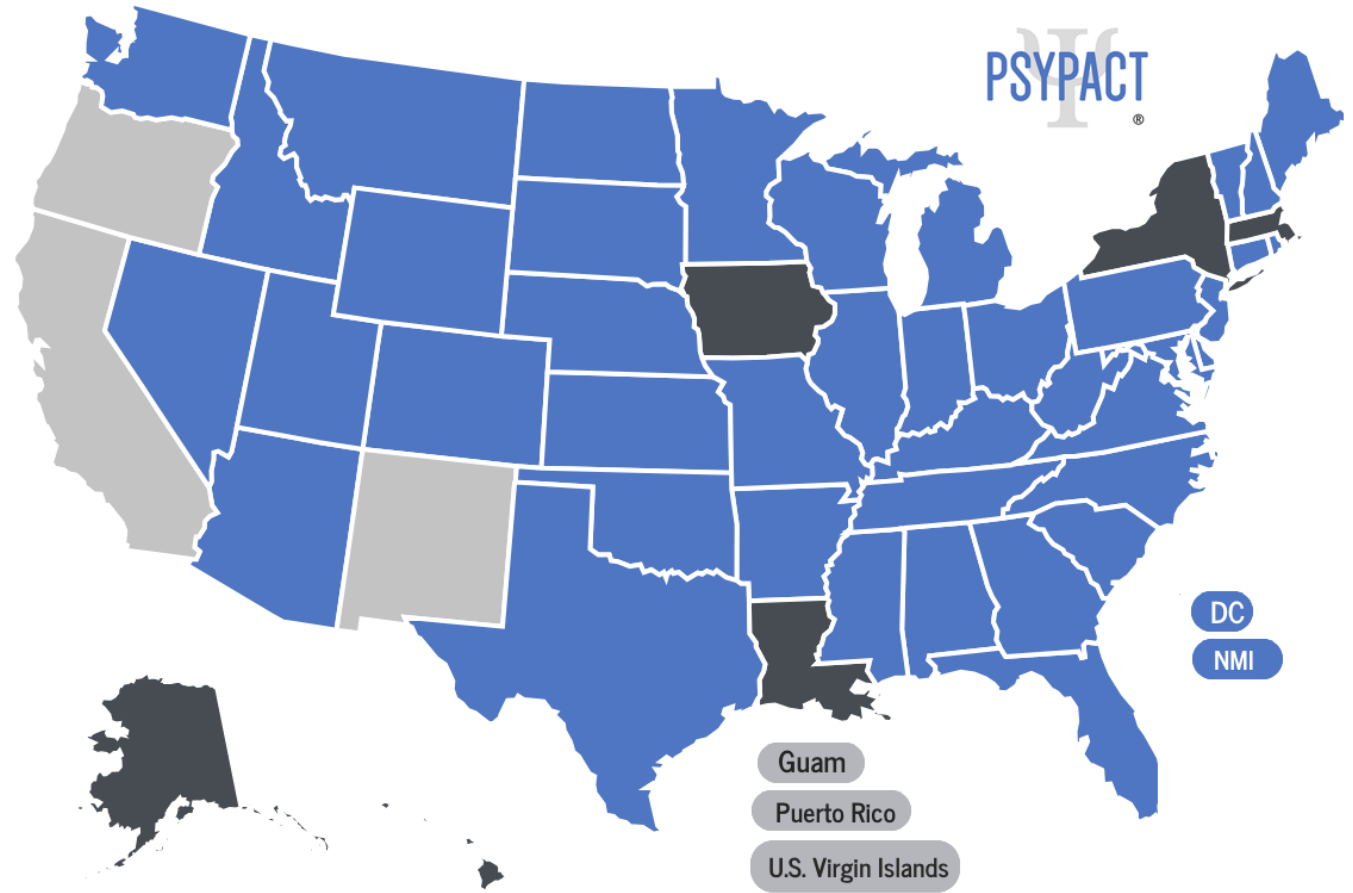


About us

- Membership includes diversity of behavioral health professionals including:
 - Licensed Psychologists
 - Licensed Psychological Associates
 - Licensed Professional Counselors
 - Licensed Clinical Social Workers
 - Students
- 150 members, of which 66 (44%) are licensed psychologists.
- There are approximately 325 psychologists with an active license in Alaska.

PSYPACT

PSYCHOLOGY
INTERJURISDICTIONAL
COMPACT



43 PSYPACT jurisdictions

Where we stand on PSYPACT

- PSYPACT has been on AK-PA's legislative agenda
- AK-PA began discussing PSYPACT in January when we were informed of HB352.
- AK-PA began surveying our membership about PSYPACT. The survey was opened to all licensed psychologists and ends today, March 31st.
- Trending survey results showed a very strong preference for Alaska to join PSYPACT
- **A majority of the AK-PA Board voted to endorse PSYPACT and HB352 at the March board meeting.**

Benefits of PSYPACT

- An optional certification that does not affect the scope of practice to psychologists (in Alaska) who do not participate.
- Allows qualified licensed psychologists to continue providing therapy to clients that move to another PSYPACT state or are temporarily in another PSYPACT state for an extended period of time.
 - Alaska clients that move to a lower 48 state
 - Snowbirds wintering or students on break in the lower 48 states
- Increased access to mental health services to Alaskans from psychologists from another PSYPACT state.
 - More options for rural Alaskans
 - More options for those who need specialized therapies
 - More options for those who prefer a psychologist from their community or culture

PSYPACT Rules of Practice

1. Hold an active license in the PSYPACT Home state.
2. Obtain an E.Passport certificate and one or both of the following:
 - Authority to Practice Interjurisdiction Telepsychology (APIT)
 - Temporary Authorization to Practice (TIP)
3. Comply with scope of practice laws of the Receiving state including any mandatory reporting and emergency procedures
4. Receive official notice of authorization from the PSYPACT Commission before practicing.

PSYPACT Survey Concerns

1. Exclusion of graduates from non American Psychological Assoc (APA)/Canadian Psychological Assoc (CPA) accredited programs.
 - Alaska Pacific University's Psychology PhD program and some online PhD programs (Walden, Capella, Saybrook) that are not APA accredited
 - There is a possibility that graduates will qualify to participate if the program qualifies through PSYPACTS Mobility Program Policies and Procedures Manual.
2. Out of state E.Passport holder's unaware of Alaska's culture
3. Potential Insurance reimbursement issues
4. Out of state E.Passport holder's abiding by Alaska laws for licensed psychologists
5. Licensed Psychological Associates (LPA) are not currently able to participate

AK-PA's commitment to addressing concerns

- Hosting townhall meeting on PSYPACT
- Provide continuing education workshops on PSYPACT
- Create continuing education materials for out of state E.Passport holders who will be providing services to clients moving to Alaska or out of state clients in Alaska for an extended period.
- Collaborating with other PSYPACT states to provide resources about Alaska



Questions

Thank you

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