



April 22, 2026

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar, Chair
The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Vice Chair
Senate Health & Social Services
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: The Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) endorses SB281

Dear Senators Dunbar and Giessel:

The Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) is pleased to endorse SB281 (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 Senate Health & Social Services 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.

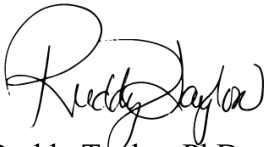
A majority of our members who participated in a recent survey *strongly support* joining PSYPACT. We anticipate the following benefits will have the greatest impact on the public and on the psychology profession in Alaska:

- *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 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, which will have input in any compact implementation.

We thank you for the opportunity to attend your committee and testify about how the passage of SB 281 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruddy Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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>