



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 6, 2021

### *Testimony of Rep. Denise Tepler presenting*

## **LD 863, An Act To Have Maine Join the Interstate Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact To Improve Telehealth Options for Psychologists and Their Patients**

### *Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services*

Senator Sanborn and respected colleagues of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I am Denise Tepler, representing House District 54, all of the sweet Town of Topsham from Merrymeeting Bay to Sky-Hi. I am pleased to present **LD 863, An Act To Have Maine Join the Interstate Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact To Improve Telehealth Options for Psychologists and Their Patients.**

Interstate Licensing Compacts in general can improve efficiency and effectiveness of Maine's professional licensing programs. They can provide benefits in limiting the amount of work licensing boards must do in checking out of state credentials and can allow more opportunities for Maine-based professionals to do work in border states while protecting patients from unscrupulous practitioners.

PSYPACT in particular, is an interstate compact which provides a mechanism for the ethical and legal practice of telepsychology by licensed psychologists whose states join the compact. 20 States including New Hampshire have passed legislation joining the Compact and 11 more, including Vermont, have pending legislation.

Joining PSYPACT will offer our fellow Mainers with more opportunities to obtain the highest level of mental health services from doctoral level licensed psychologists, including those with specialties like opioid use disorders.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill. I will be happy to answer any questions you have but members of the Maine Psychology Association are present in support of the bill and may be better able to answer. Please note that the Department of Defense has submitted written testimony supporting the bill.