

# FORT WORTH AREA PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## TEXAS STATE LEGISLATURE 86<sup>th</sup> SESSION 2019

- PREVENT BOARD CONSOLIDATION
  - **PREVENT CONSOLIDATION** OF THE TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS (TSBEP) WITH OTHER MASTER'S LEVEL MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS' LICENSING BOARDS
  - ASSURE THAT **TSBEP REMAINS INDEPENDENT** IN ITS RULE-MAKING AND DECISION-MAKING
- ASSURE THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY **REMAINS A DOCTORAL LEVEL PROFESSION**
  - PROPOSE STATUTES THAT OVERTURN A TSBEP A RULE GRANTING LICENSED PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES (LPA)
  - COMPEL LPAs TO REQUIRE LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS TO SUPERVISE THEIR WORK
  - TEXAS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (TPA) HAS SUED TSBEP CONCERNING THIS ISSUE
- RETURN THE **ORAL EXAM** TO THE LICENSING PROCESS
- PROPOSE STATUE THAT WILL GRANT LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST **PRESCRIBING PRIVILEGES**
  - WITH APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
  - UNDER SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED PHYSICIAN
- REQUIRE A YEAR OF **POST-DOCTORAL SUPERVISION** FOR LICENSURE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST
- ADOPT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT (**PSYCPACT**)
  - ALLOWS RECIPROCITY TO AND WITH OTHER STATE LICENSING BODIES
  - ALLOWS THIS FOR 30 DAYS
- PROPOSE A STATUE THAT PROVIDES **IMMUNITY AGAINST PROSECUTION FOR OUR DUTY TO WARN** IN THE EVENT OF A PATIENT OR CLIENT THREATENING HARM
- PROPOSE A STATUTE THAT GRANTS LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS **AN EXEMPTION AGAINST REQUIRING A SEPARATE LICENSE TO TREAT SEX OFFENDERS**

## UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL 115<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (2017-2019)

- **DEFEAT HOUSE RESOLUTION (H.R). 3798 –**
  - ***THREATENS TO ELIMINATE EMPLOYER-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE*** COVERAGE PROVIDED TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ("ACA").
  - WOULD DECREASE THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO OFFER HEALTH COVERAGE TO EMPLOYEES UNDER THE ACA'S EMPLOYER MANDATE
  - DEFINING A "FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE" AS SOMEONE WORKING 40, RATHER THAN 30, HOURS A WEEK
  - RETROACTIVELY HALT PENALTIES ON LARGE EMPLOYERS THAT FAILED TO OFFER COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE COVERAGE TO EMPLOYEES DURING THE PAST 4 YEARS
- **URGE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE TO CO-SPONSOR THE MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS ACT**
  - WOULD REMOVE A ROADBLOCK TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES IN CERTAIN TREATMENT FACILITIES (I.E., PHYSICIAN SIGN OFF IN ORDER TO RENDER PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES)
  - ALTHOUGH PSYCHOLOGISTS ARE LICENSED TO PRACTICE INDEPENDENTLY IN ALL U.S. STATES AND JURISDICTIONS, MEDICARE STILL REQUIRES UNNECESSARY PHYSICIAN SIGN-OFF AND OVERSIGHT OF THEIR SERVICES IN SOME SETTINGS, HAMPERING OR EVEN PREVENTING DELIVERY OF NEEDED CARE.
  - FACT SHEET: <http://www.apapracticecentral.org/advocacy/state/leadership/plc-mmhaa-fact-sheet.pdf>