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On Behalf Of: Redmond  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2596

To: Senate Committee on Education Re: Support for HB 2596 – Interstate Compact for School Psychologists

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Interstate Compact for school psychologists and to urge you to support its adoption.

I have been a school psychologist for 15 years, and throughout that time, our profession has faced persistent shortages and staffing challenges. Despite growing awareness of the importance of mental and behavioral health in schools, positions have not been allocated to meet the National Association of School Psychologists' (NASP) recommended ratio of one psychologist for every 500 students.

This is a common experience across the field. Many school psychologists, overwhelmed by high caseloads and chronic underfunding, leave for the private sector in search of more manageable workloads. Burnout is on the rise, and the students—especially those in high-need or rural areas—are the ones who pay the price.

The Interstate Compact offers a meaningful solution. By allowing licensed school psychologists to more easily work across state lines, we can fill vacancies faster, reach underserved areas more effectively, and reduce the barriers that prevent professionals from going where they are needed most.

At a time when school mental health needs are at an all-time high, we need solutions that empower professionals to serve students directly. Please do all you can to support school psychologists and help us do the work we are trained to do: support the well-being and success of every child.

Caitlin McClelland, NCSP, BCBA