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SB 2341: Interstate Compact for School Psychologists Informational Testimony

Senate Committee on Workforce Development

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Thank you to Chair Wobbema and the members of this committee for holding this hearing on SB2341 to enact the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists. My name is Adam Diersing, Senior Policy Analyst for the Council of State Governments and primary staff member covering the ICSP development and enactment process. I am writing to provide informational testimony to this committee on the ICSP. This compact was developed as part of a cooperative agreement between the Department of Defense and The Council of State Governments, in partnership with the National Association of School Psychologists.

The development of this model legislation began in the Fall of 2022 with the assembly of a Technical Assistance group comprised of legislators, state education officials, members of professional associations, licensed school psychologists, and other education stakeholders. The group met over the course of several months to determine the needs of the profession and the model needed for school psychologist mobility patterns, opportunities for increasing virtual and remote practice, and licensure systems. A separate drafting team transitioned the recommendations and model from the Technical Assistance Group into a full draft of the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists model legislation. After several months of public comment and stakeholder review, the final draft of the model legislation was released in December 2023.

The ICSP most closely resembles the compact for teachers that reached activation in 2023. That Compact is currently in the process of being effectuated with the data system under construction and the early rulemaking procedures underway. The hope among the related partner organizations is that these compacts will work together and share resources, including the data system, lowering anticipated costs and time for the ICSP to be stood up fully.

Currently, 2 states are members of the ICSP with 10 additional states considering legislation to join the compact so far this session. The ICSP will be effectuated when the seventh state enacts the model legislation. Legislation across the country is actively being tracked at schoolpsychcompact.org.

I am available to answer any questions that may arise in this hearing on the ICSP. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB2596.