



## **New York State Society for Clinical Social Work, Inc.**

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### **MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**

**S7136 (By Senator Skoufis)**

**On Senate Higher Education Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Room 124 CAP

**A6744 (By Member of Assembly Simone)**

**In Assembly Higher Education Committee**

#### ***AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to adopting the psychology interjurisdictional compact.***

*The New York State Society for Clinical Social Work, Inc. (NYSSCSW) was founded in 1968 to address the need for legal recognition of social work clinicians practicing in all settings including private practice. This mission included scope of practice licensing and insurance reimbursement for mental health services. Among the notable achievements of the Clinical Society was the successful state and national legislative efforts to increase access to clinical social work mental health services through various public and private insurance systems. NYSSCSW initiated a licensing effort in 1985 which in 2002 New York State enacted, establishing the LCSW as well as the LMSW. NYSSCSW also collaborated with other clinical social work organizations to develop a psychotherapy-oriented Code of Ethics. NYSSCSW continues to be a leader in providing educational, professional and legislative services to its members as well as patient protection legislation.*

This legislation would allow New York State psychologists to join the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). Under the terms of the Compact, out-of-state licensed psychologists can provide services in-person or via telehealth to patients in New York State. States that participate in the Compact adhere to standards created by The Psychology Interjurisdiction Compact Commission.

NYSSCSW is sensitive to the issues that both New York State and licenses psychologists face in regard to workforce issues surrounding access to mental health services. The NYSSCSW is concerned that participation in a Compact structure will erode current standards. New York's laws and regulations assure the highest quality of skills and rigorous standards for education, training, examination and supervised experience.

Participation in this specific Compact dilutes the essential values and the license of the New York State practitioner.

At the present time, New York State has not allowed participation in interstate compacts for any of the licensed professions. In the current climate there are stark differences and direct conflicts among many state laws regulating mental health professions and participation in this Compact could result in risks to public safety, consumer protection and a breakdown of our robust regulatory framework.

Depending on the structure and membership of the Compact, control of a profession and sound professional practices will be weakened. Memberships in various compacts may undermine New York State policymakers efforts to meet unique New York State needs.

We suggest reviewing critical areas before determining whether to participate in a compact. Those areas include:

- The difference between scopes of practice in different states.
- Clinical supervision requirements.
- State regulations implementing licensing.
- Malpractice insurance.
- Annual fees.
- Ethics and disciplinary enforcement.
- Continuing education.

Until participation in this interstate compact (PSYPACT) can guarantee that the same high standards of education, training and patient safety exist, the NYSSCSW **strongly opposes** the above legislation.

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