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## Senate Education Committee

Oct. 28, 2025

### Proponent Testimony on SB 276

#### Rachel Chilton, Executive Director, Ohio School Psychologists Association

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Rachel Chilton and I am executive director of the Ohio School Psychologists Association, which represents more than 900 school psychologists across the state.

I wish to voice OSPA's strong support for SB 276. School psychologists are uniquely trained to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. In collaboration with families and other school staff, we help create safe and supportive learning environments in which all students can thrive. School psychologists are typically involved in designing the interventions that help students overcome academic struggles and achieve higher academic performance.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist for every 500 students; however, in Ohio the ratio in law is 1:2500, and because of the shortage of school psychologists, some districts are unable to meet even that standard.

The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists streamlines the systems of licensure mobility in member states while upholding a high standard of school psychology practice and would benefit our state, the State Board of Psychology, school psychologists, and ultimately the students and families in Ohio. This legislation would increase our ability to recruit school psychologists to Ohio. This compact is similar to PsyPact, but because that compact only applied to doctorate-level psychology practitioners, it did not cover school psychologists, the majority of which hold degrees at the specialist level.

You will hear the benefits this compact will have for school psychologists. There are also benefits to our state.

Streamlining the licensure process promotes efficiency within the State Board of Psychology and enables school psychologists to begin providing services more quickly and allows our students to immediately benefit. Importantly, this legislation benefits our military families and enables military-connected school psychologists to easily continue in their career following a permanent change of station.

I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your time; I would be happy to answer any questions.