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**TESTIMONY
HB 2209**

**Legislation Enacting the Interjurisdictional Authorization to Practice Telepsychology and
Temporary In-person, Face-to-Face Psychology
March 24, 2021**

Committee Chair Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee:

I am Bruce Nystrom, PhD. I have been a licensed psychologist in Kansas since 1985 and have practiced exclusively in Wichita. I have served as President of the Kansas Psychological Association (KPA) and am currently the immediate past President. I have been the Federal Advocacy Coordinator for the Kansas Psychological Association and American Psychological Association for over twenty years. I am a member of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and a member of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) which represents psychology regulatory boards throughout the United States and Canada. As a disclaimer, I write to you as an individual psychologist and do not represent either KPA, BSRB, or ASPPB in my comments.

I am writing in support of passage of PsyPact legislation in Kansas.

I am committed to the provision of the absolute best psychological care for the citizens of Kansas. Like some many other rural states, there are large sections of Kansas that are not served by professional psychologists. This has been alleviated to some degree secondary to the emergency provisions of the State in concert with the support of various third-party insurers that professional psychological services can be provided through tele-video platforms. Emerging research points to this as being a powerful therapeutic tool that can help provide services in traditionally underserved areas. However, restrictions to practice in one's home state does tend to limit provision of services via tele-video in other jurisdictions or simply across a river running through a city. To say that there is a need for such services is great and that there are several providers eager to access this new market of practice.

At this time there is limited ability to enforce credentialing and regulation on providers who may well be entering this new market from other states and jurisdictions. This is where PsyPact comes into play. PsyPact provides structure and regulation of the interjurisdictional practice of psychology.

Other professions are adopting similar pacts between states and jurisdictions. Indeed, the states that contiguously border Kansas have all adopted PsyPact legislation. PsyPact is not a radical departure from accepted practice; rather it is becoming accepted practice.

PsyPact offers a way to regulate the interjurisdictional practice of psychology that will increasingly become the accepted standard of care. The time is right to adopt a cogent set of regulations by adopting PsyPact that will insure the provision of quality psychological services for the citizens of Kansas.

Thank you,

Bruce Nystrom, PhD
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