

April 19, 2021

Honorable Bo Watson
Chair
Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee
320 6th Ave N,
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Chair Watson,

The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) and our nationwide employer member companies applaud your efforts to increase access to health care for patients in Tennessee, by joining the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) – as called for in your legislation, HB 455. The compact will eliminate barriers to mental care for patients, and promote provider choice, as the country becomes more interconnected through technology. ERIC commends the Tennessee legislature’s first steps in joining the interstate compact and **urges prompt passage of HB 455** so all may benefit from the compact.

ERIC is a national advocacy organization that exclusively represents large employers that provide health, retirement, paid leave, and other benefits to their nationwide workforces. Our member companies are leaders in every sector of the economy, with stores, warehouses, factories, and operations in every state. ERIC member companies, like most large employers, offer health benefits to workers and their families. However, patients’ access to care is often hampered by provider shortages due to geography and market conditions. Tennessee’s participation in this compact will allow ERIC member companies to expand their health benefit offerings in the state, ensuring that patients will be able to see the providers they need in a timely manner. The interstate compact also reduces red tape for qualified providers by reducing barriers related to licensing. Permitting providers to practice in multiple states can help reduce provider shortages, improve market competition, and boost the quality and affordability of health care for patients throughout the state.

Thank you for considering our comments. We know participating in the compact can help patients in your state get the care they need when they need it. ERIC is standing by to help if you have any questions, or if we can be a resource in any way. Please contact me at sbelmont@ERIC.org or 202-267-1914

Thank you again for your attention to this vital issue.

Shannon M. Belmont
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