

Testimony Supporting HB 24-1096, School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact

Thank you Representatives Hall, Martinez, Young and Lukens for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 24-1096. My name is Dr. Anastasia Skalski and I'm a retired school psychologist living part-time in Idaho Springs, CO and am a consultant for the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Before retiring last summer, I spent eighteen years working as the Director of Professional Policy and Practice for NASP and two decades in CO working as a school psychologist, a school administrator, and as an Assistant Professor at UCD. My testimony today offers background information about shortages in school psychology and the efforts that NASP has taken to try and address these issues.

With expertise in psychology and education, school psychologists are critical providers in helping to respond to student academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs that pose barriers to learning. However, the national shortage of school psychologists threatens the ability of students to access needed interventions and supports. The [US Department of Education](#) reports that on average there is one school psychologist for every 1,127 general education students in the US. This ratio is more than twice the recommended research-based standard of 1:500. Research has shown that when these ratios exceed the recommended ratio, the scope of services available to students are greatly narrowed. The ratio reported for Colorado was 1:942, nearly twice what is recommended.

NASP has been working for decades to help states address the causes of shortages that impact these ratios. Specific efforts have addressed supply & demand, funding shortfalls, credentialing & licensure, and recruitment & retention. Here are just a few examples of NASP's efforts:

- NASP has worked to reduce stigma and help the public better understand the academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs of students, and the value of having access to qualified school professionals to address these issues.
- NASP has worked to increase federal funding for school mental health services, recruiting and retaining school psychologists, and expanding the availability and capacity of training programs. All three of CO's school psychology graduate training programs have received these grants.
- NASP has been working to support the creation of an interstate licensing compact that expedites and streamlines licensing and thereby expands the available pool of qualified candidates to fill new or existing positions.
- NASP worked with the US Department of Education to adopt a uniform methodology across the states for collecting [School Psychologist to Student ratio data](#), and instituted a uniform survey method for collecting [graduate training program](#) data. These databases offer insights for states to better understand and respond to supply and demand data.
- NASP has worked to support state professional associations like CSSP (Colorado Society of School Psychologists) in understanding the unique causes of shortages and has provided resources and leadership training to help remedy these issues.
- And finally, NASP has built an online learning center to help school districts and practitioners to access low-cost accessible professional development, and has built a no cost mentorship program for practitioners working in settings where coaching opportunities are limited.

Through continuation of efforts like these, and the adoption of HB 24-1096, we are hopeful that the future will hold improved access to qualified professionals and the comprehensive services needed to support student success. Thank You for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Resources:

Professional Standards of the National Association of School Psychologists

<https://www.nasponline.org/x55315.xml>

NASP Research Summary: Shortages in School Psychology

<https://www.nasponline.org/x43315.xml>

State Shortages Dashboard

<https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>

Student to School Psychologist Ratio Data, 2019-2022. US Department of Education Common Core Data.

https://www.nasponline.org/assets/Documents/Research%20and%20Policy/Research%20Center/Ratio_by_state_21-22.pdf

School Psychology Program Information

<https://apps.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/graduate-education/index.aspx>

School Psychology Compact Website

<https://schoolpsychcompact.org/>

National Association of School Psychologists

<https://www.nasponline.org/>

Respectfully Submitted:

Anastasia Skalski, PhD

Email: skskalski@icloud.com

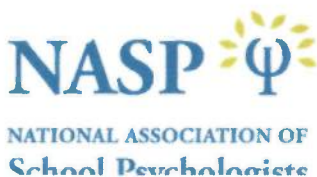
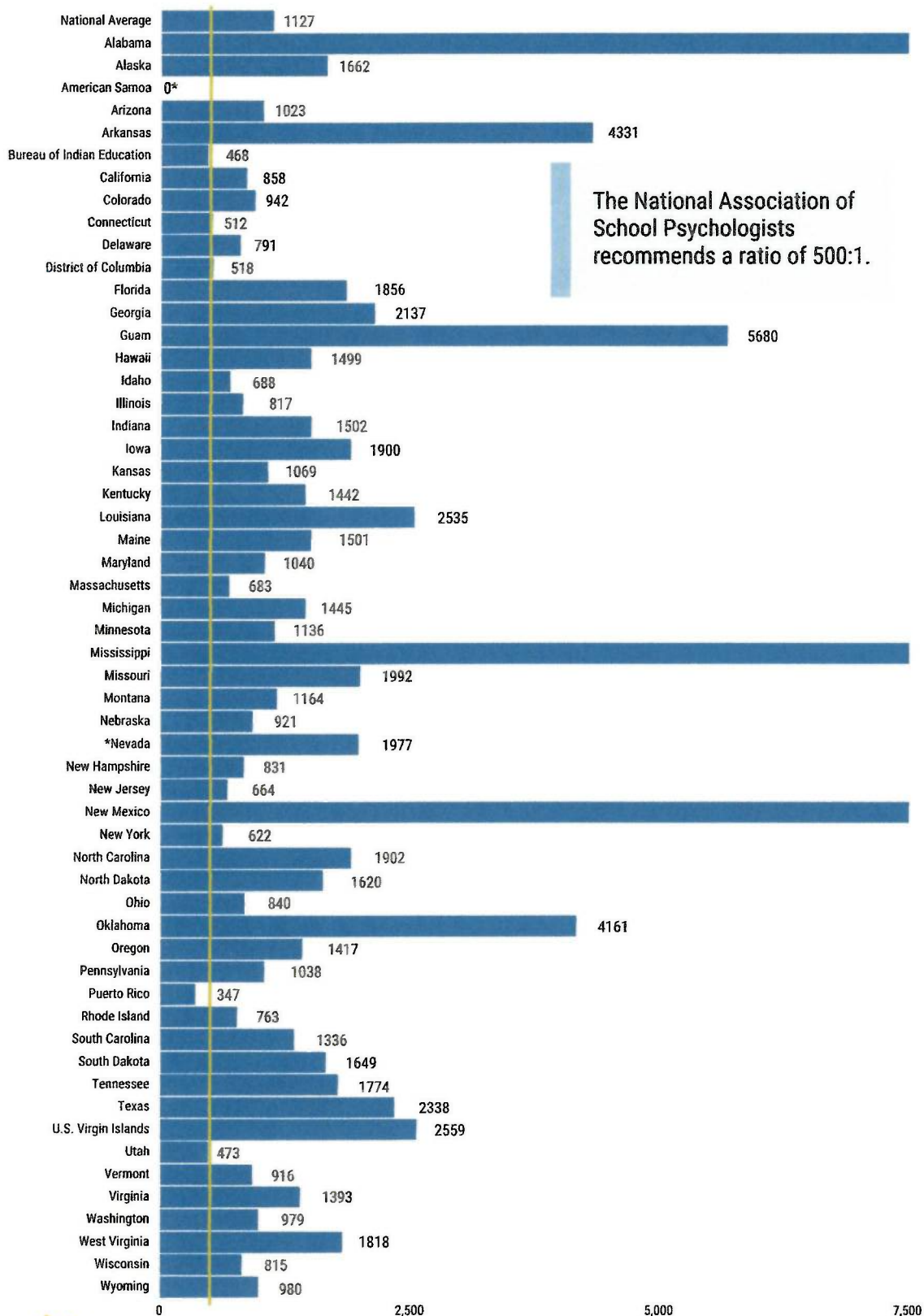
Cell: 303-929-3181

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Student to School Psychologist Ratio 2021–2022

Based on the US Department of Education Common Core of Data

The data used in the calculation of ratios were provided to the US Department of Education by state departments of education. These data are provisional and we are aware that these numbers may not align with other sources of data. NASP will be monitoring these data and will update this graphic should new information become available.



Data as of 1/10/2023.

All data are from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey," 2021–2022 V.1a.

* Data for 2021–2022 are unavailable for Nevada and ratios were imputed from 2020–2021 data. No data are provided for American Samoa. Ratios for Alabama, Mississippi, and New Mexico, were greater than 7,500 students per school psychologist.



February 2024

To: House Education Committee

Re: HB24-1096--School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact

Dear Committee Members,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. AAUW of Colorado represents over 700 community leaders as members around the state.

Today, Colorado faces a severe shortage of healthcare professionals, none more serious than the lack of school psychologists at the very time when our children need them the most. At the same time, Colorado is home to a number of military installations, and spouses often accompany their military members to assignments here. The same is true for many spouses of corporate employees transferred here. The majority of these spouses are women who currently face barriers to continue in their healthcare careers.

House Bill 1096 represents an opportunity to take advantage of the talent already in our state, as well as allow movement from other states that are members of the compact. AAUW believes the School Psychologists Licensure Compact proposed in House Bill 1096 will help our schools provide much-needed mental health care for our children around the state, at the same time providing many women the opportunity to continue their healthcare careers.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports House Bill 1096, and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming a law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Su Ryden
AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



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February 22, 2024

The Honorable Barbara McLachlan
Chair
House Education Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB24-1136, Healthier Social Media Use by Youth, TechNet Amend

Dear Chair McLachlan and Honorable Members of the Education Committee:

I write on behalf of TechNet to respectfully ask to the Committee to amend HB24-1136. Our industry strongly believes children deserve a heightened level of protection online and TechNet members have been at the forefront of raising the standard for digital well-being across the industry. We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this bill.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, ecommerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Protecting the mental health and security of our children online is a top priority and is something our industry takes seriously. TechNet members have led the way in creating new features, settings, parental tools, and protections that are age-appropriate and empower families to create the online experience that fits their needs, and that are tailored to the differing developmental needs of young people. We encourage legislation that promotes the use of these tools and we support parental supervision as a meaningful way to balance a minor's access to online services with the need to ensure safe experiences. This would allow parents to determine the appropriate time spent and hours of the day for their family. Whether by activating parental controls on streaming television services or smartphone apps that help families manage their digital life across all connected devices, families have options when it comes to filtering content online. An educated consumer armed with

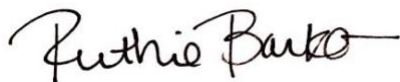
technology is always the best protection against unwanted online interactions. Therefore, we support the education approach of HB24-1136. This bill helps promote the education around the settings and tools available to parents and families and to promote their utilization.

TechNet requests that the provisions in 6-1-1601 (1)-(3) are either removed or amended. We request this due to concerns about interoperability between states absent a federal standard, not because we take issue with what these provisions aim to accomplish. If each state legislates this issue, a conflicting matrix of notification requirements would emerge. This would be impossible to comply with, and we think at minimum these paragraphs must be amended to be less prescriptive as to the content, language, and specific timing of the notifications.

TechNet must also underline that any state law on this issue must respect and uphold the First Amendment, not conflict with any other relevant federal law, and avoid burdening lawful speech. The current drafting of HB24-1136 falls short in this regard. Regulating youth and social media is in many ways similar to regulations state and local governments have attempted to enact in the past to protect minors from the effects of playing violent video games. Such laws have repeatedly been found unconstitutional. *American Amusement Machine Ass'n v. Kendrick*, 244 F.3d 572 (7th Cir. 2001); see also *Entertainment Merchants Association v. Henry*, No. CIV-06-675-C, *3 (W.D. Okla. Sep. 17, 2007). This issue continues to be litigated in multiple states today, with recent court decisions casting doubt on the constitutionality of bills such as this one that place undue barriers on minors' access to speech. While protecting children from harm is an important interest, the Constitution requires the law to be "narrowly tailor[ed]" to that goal. *Entertainment Software Ass'n v. Blagojevich*, 469 F.3d 641, 646-47 (7th Cir. 2006).

TechNet looks forward to working with the Committee to address the above outlined issues. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective on this critical issue, please contact me if you have any questions regarding our position at rbarko@technet.org.

Best regards,



Ruthie Barko
Executive Director, Colorado & the Central U.S.
TechNet

Cc: Members of the House Education Committee



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RESERVE AFFAIRS

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February 22, 2024

Chairperson Barbara McLachlan
House, Education Committee

Remarks of
Michelle Richart
Midwest Regional Liaison
United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office

Support of: HB24-1096 – School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact

Testimony

The Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support the policy changes proposed in Colorado HB24-1096, regarding the School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact, a measure to reduce barriers to school psychologists and employment in Colorado.

My name is Michelle Richart and I am the Midwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We represent the Department and work with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, and the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

The Department of Defense has advocated for improved licensure and career portability for military Service members and their spouses for several years. Military spouses are disproportionately affected by state-specific professional licensing requirements that can cause delays and gaps in employment, with thirty-six percent requiring a state license to practice in their professions and an annual cross-state relocation rate more than ten times higher than their civilian counterparts. Accordingly, military spouses experience unemployment and underemployment at significantly higher rates than their civilian peers.

State policies enacting interstate licensure compacts, such as the School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact, relieve one of the many stressors of frequent military moves by enabling military spouses to transfer their licenses more quickly across state lines and obtain employment as soon as they relocate to a new state. These policies facilitate greater career sustainability for military spouses, improving their families' financial security and overall resilience.

Interstate licensure compacts benefit not only military spouses, but also apply to all eligible professionals to include active-duty Service members, members of the reserve components, veterans, and civilians. By continuing to enact these beneficial policies, Colorado can expand the opportunity to increase its workforce available to serve the local community while continuing in

its great tradition of providing an extraordinary degree of support to our military families as they move into and out of the state.

In closing, the Department of Defense is very appreciative of Colorado's ongoing commitment and efforts to support members of the military and their families who sacrifice much in service to our country. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide comments in support of this policy proposal.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Richart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MICHELLE RICHART
Midwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office