ADVOCACY WINS IN THE STATES

State laws and policies have a significant impact on psychologists’ ability to practice. Here’s a snapshot of the latest successes, many of them enforcing mental health parity laws.

NEW MEXICO
Lower fees: The New Mexico Board of Psychologist Examiners has reduced the fee for initial licensing applications by more than 50%.

NEW JERSEY
Parity compliance: A new law in New Jersey requires insurance companies to follow the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and gives state regulators more enforcement authority. The law requires insurers to submit annual reports to the state outlining how they ensure parity compliance from best to worst.

WYOMING
Strengthening parity: A new Wyoming law requires insurance plans to comply with parity—and the state’s insurance commissioner to enforce it.

ILLINOIS
A reimbursement win: BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, both commercial and Medicaid plans, will now reimburse for covered services provided by supervised doctoral psychology interns and postdoctoral fellows.

NEW YORK
Enforcing parity: New York enacted the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Report Act (Parity Report Act), which requires insurers to report on their compliance with parity laws. Those reports will be published in a consumer guide that will rank insurers’ parity compliance from best to worst.

COLORADO
Protecting patients: Advocacy by the Colorado Psychological Association helped to defeat legislation that would have established continuing professional competency requirements for unlicensed and unregistered psychotherapists.

GEORGIA & OKLAHOMA
Expanding Care: Georgia and Oklahoma are the latest states to join the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) enabling licensed psychologists to engage in telepractice and temporary in-person practice across state lines.

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