



**THE ERISA
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**
*Shaping benefit policies
before they shape you.*

SHANNON BELMONT
Associate, Health Policy

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Honorable Joseph F. Vitale
Chair
Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
125 W State St,
Trenton, NJ 8625

Chair Vitale:

The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) and our nationwide employer member companies applaud your efforts to increase access to health care for patients in New Jersey, by joining the Psychology Interjurisdictional compact (PSYPACT) – as called for in legislation, SB 2506. The compact will eliminate barriers to care for patients, and promote provider choice, as the country becomes more interconnected through technology. ERIC commends the New Jersey legislature's first steps in joining the interstate compact and urges prompt passage of SB 2506 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. You and your constituents are likely to engage with an ERIC member company when you drive a car or fill it with gas, use a cell phone or a computer, visit a bank or hotel, fly on an airplane, watch TV, benefit from our national defense, go shopping, receive, or send a package, use cosmetics, or enjoy a soft drink.

It is important to realize patients' access to care is often hampered by provider shortages due to geography and market conditions. New Jersey'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 New Jersey 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- 627-1914.

Thank you again for your attention to this vital issue.

Shannon M. Belmont,
Associate, State Health Policy