



Wisconsin Psychological Association

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March 21, 2024

To the Senate Committee on Insurance and Small Business:

Thank you for introducing **Senate Bill 1039**. If passed, this bill will increase treatment access for many Wisconsin residents seeking mental and/or behavioral health treatment. SB1039 also creates a critically important means to financially support behavioral health trainees while they acquire the required training needed for licensure in the fields of psychology, clinical social work, professional counseling, and marriage and family counseling. Currently, organizations sponsoring mental health trainees have limited pathways to recover the costs of this training. These limitations on cost recovery for providing training intensify the financial pressures on sponsoring organizations, making it harder for them to offer training opportunities. This restricts the flow of new, appropriately trained behavioral health clinicians into practice in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Psychological Association (WPA) is likely to support SB1039 with the following modifications:

1. The definition of a Qualified Treatment Trainee (QTT) in SB1039 currently excludes psychologists in training. We request that the bill be modified to adopt the QTT definition in WI DHS 35.03 (17m). This modification would ensure consistency of the QTT definition across legislation and also ensure that psychologists in training are included in the mandates under this bill.

Please see the QTT definition in WI DHS 35. Specifically, DHS 35.03 (17m):
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/030/35/III/15

2. Define “clinical training” hours in the bill.
3. Add a provision in the bill stating that an organization sponsoring a QTT is not required to attain certification as a DHS Outpatient Mental Health Clinic to receive Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement for QTT-delivered services.
4. Add WI DHS 35.127 (2) to the bill specifying that a QTT may provide psychotherapy to consumers only under clinical supervision as defined under s. [DHS 35.03 \(5\) \(a\)](#). Additionally, reinforce the requirement for supervision by incorporating WI DHS 35.14 (4)(a)(b) specifying that QTTs must be supervised.



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5. Add and define “clinical supervision” according to WI DHS 35.03 (5) (a) (b).

WPA would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you to incorporate the identified changes to the bill. Thank you again for drafting this important legislation and considering these modifications.

Sincerely,

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