



**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2016**

**PLLC**

**S.5862 LaValle / A.8153 Peoples-Stokes**

**SUPPORT**

This bill authorizes Title VIII non-MD health professions and physicians to form LLCs, professional service LLCs, foreign professional service LLCs, LLPs and foreign LLPs with each other.

*Currently, psychologists may own their own practices, but cannot enter into an ownership agreement with a psychiatrist or other medical doctor. This legislation would allow for joint ownership and the continued expansion of integrated care settings in New York State, allowing patients to seek many types of primary care within one practice.*

**PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

**S.5824 Lanza / A.9236 McDonald**

**SUPPORT**

This bill creates the ability for psychologists to prescribe appropriate medications for the treatment, diagnosis, and management of individuals under their care. This legislation would require specialized training, education, and passage of an examination before such authority is permitted.

*Psychologists can prescribe psychotropic medications in Louisiana, New Mexico, Illinois, and within the United States Military. Passage of this legislation would increase access to care for those New Yorkers living in rural or isolated areas of the state where easy and affordable access to a psychiatrist is limited or nonexistent.*

**DUTY TO PROTECT**

**S.7424 Carlucci / A.9484 Steck**

**SUPPORT**

This bill creates a duty to protect for licensed psychologists in New York State, which would allow them to report to the authorities when a patient has directly communicated threats of serious, imminent harm against a specific person or persons; this legislation would also provide immunity from disciplinary action if such information was reported. This duty currently exists for licensed psychologists working in state-operated mental health facilities.

*It is important that licensed psychologists be immune from criminal, civil, and professional liability where they feel in their professional opinion that a patient intends to inflict serious harm. When a viable threat has been made, a licensed psychologist should be able breach the traditional duty of confidentiality to contact the appropriate authorities or take appropriate actions.*

**OUT OF NETWORK COVERAGE**

**S.1846 Hannon / A.3734 Rosenthal**

**SUPPORT**

This bill requires insurers to offer out of network coverage as an option to any health insurance contract, both inside and outside of the statewide health benefit exchange.

*The availability of out of network benefits has been steadily declining as more plans are offered by state health exchanges; licensed psychologists are concerned that this results in decreased access to mental health services and supports the expansion of health plans to include out of network coverage.*

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE**

**A.420 Rosenthal / S.6587 Ortt**

**OPPOSE**

This bill creates the profession of school psychology, to be licensed and regulated by the New York State Education Department.

*NYS SPA opposes this legislation and holds the position that only doctoral level psychologists should be eligible for licensure in New York State. Enactment of this legislation could weaken the standards for school psychologists, which requires rigorous training beyond what this bill would require.*