

To the American Psychological Association (APA) Task Force on the Revision of the *Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists*:

The Georgia Association of School Psychologists (GASP) is the statewide association representing the 750 school psychologists who practice in the state. Approximately 640 of these school psychologists serve in the school setting. As the largest professional association of school psychologists in Georgia, the Georgia Association of School Psychologists (GASP) is *the* voice of school psychology in this state. Our mission is to provide Georgia School Psychologists with the highest level of support and professional training so that they can remain effective in a dynamic educational environment.

On October 23, 2007, the GASP Executive Board voted to oppose APA's recommended removal of the exemption for school psychologists from the *Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists*. GASP believes that:

- The exemption in the current *Model Act* has served the youth and families of Georgia well for thirty years and should remain in the revised *Model Act*.
- Comprehensive standards for the preparation, credentialing, and professional practice in school psychology that are consistent with the National Association of School Psychologists standards for training and credentialing currently regulate the practice of school psychology in Georgia. These are the only standards specific to the training of school psychologists that are approved by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- There is no empirical evidence that the proposed elimination of the exemption would result in any improvement in service to the children, families, and schools served by school psychologists.
- It is clear that removal of the exemption would seriously undermine the availability of school psychological services and cause immediate serious harm to children, youth, and their families throughout the state of Georgia.
- The title and practice of school psychology is firmly established in federal law, Georgia law and regulations, and Georgia Department of Education codes. Proposed changes will cause unnecessary, disruptive conflict at the state level in regards to school psychological practice in the state of Georgia.
- It is an improper restraint of trade to prevent our qualified and appropriately credentialed school psychologists from providing school psychological services and using the title “school psychologist” granted to them by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

GASP urges the Task Force to reinstate the school psychologist exemption in the *Model Act*. We urge this in the name of the children, youth, and families we serve, and in the name of the profession of school psychology.

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