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Texas Psychologists Ready for 87th Session of Texas Legislature
Texas Psychological Association Highlights Legislative Agenda

AUSTIN, TEXAS—As the Texas Legislature convenes in Austin this week, Texas psychologists shared their legislative priorities, emphasizing the need for access to mental health care during the pandemic.

Legislative priorities for the Texas Psychological Association include:

- Protecting psychologists from civil liability for reporting of patients who may be a danger to themselves or others;
- Removing barriers for psychologists to provide treatment services to sex offenders;
- Improving patient access to health care by allowing specially trained psychologists to prescribe mental-health medications; and
- Eliminating unnecessary delays in the guardianship process by authorizing psychologists to certify recommendation letters.

“We also remain committed to protecting and advancing the profession by monitoring the work and recommendations of the Behavioral Health Executive Council and addressing general mental health issues as they arise in Texas, including issues impacting mental health care and access to services as a result of COVID-19,” said Jessica Magee, Executive Director of the Texas Psychological Association.

TPA President Dr. Fran Douglas also noted the Texas Psychological Association will be supporting telehealth legislation that continues the important parity flexibilities available to Texans during COVID-19. “The extensive, successful use of telehealth during the pandemic has proven to be a crucial tool in providing individuals with mental health support. We must ensure that this crucial access to care is continued long after the pandemic recedes,” said Dr. Douglas.

To learn about the Texas Psychological Association’s legislative priorities, visit <https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/Advocacy>. To learn more about the work of the Texas Psychological Association in advocating for the expansion of telehealth during COVID-19, visit <https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/Covid19>, which also offers a wide range of online, in-person, and telephone resources to support Texans’ mental health needs.

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The Texas Psychological Association (TPA) is a professional organization for psychologists in the state. Founded in 1947, TPA's mission is to represent and enhance the profession of psychology in Texas, while promoting human health and welfare through education, science, and practice. Online at texaspsyc.org.