



Continental Societies, Incorporated
"A Public Service Organization"

Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Concern

Anne Arundel County Chapter

P.O. Box 2227

Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060

June 4, 2009

Dear Members of the American Psychological Association:

I am writing this letter out of much concern for the future of our students here in Anne Arundel County and I must voice my opinion against the proposal to revise the Model Licensure Act for our School Psychologists. If this act goes forward, it would be a grave decision targeting a valuable element of our special education programs as well as its importance to educating our children and families in need of their services (counseling, mental health, behavioral consultations) throughout the county and the state of Maryland. Many of these services are required by law and are truly necessary.

As an Educator working in this county for many years, I have had first-hand experience working with School Psychologists and it is because of their work results that I am first aware of the low reading and mathematics test scores among our youth especially African American Youth. That is why I organized and I serve as President of the Continental Societies, Inc. here in Anne Arundel County. I saw a need to improve those scores for our youth and minorities in this county. With the help of women of all branches of professions, past supervisors, educators, retired educators, ladies in government, private industry, and business owners with a variety of talents, we brainstorm ideas and have developed programs and activities to improve these scores and other endeavors to improve the quality of life for children and youth. Many of our programs are up and operating. *Our organization's mission is to create environments within our communities that empower children to have access to quality and appropriate opportunities to reach their optimal potential.* If it were not for my working relationships with knowledgeable and trained School Psychologists, efforts of continuing proper services to our youth, outside of the walls of the schools and to their families in our communities would be in vain.

On behalf of our chapter members who are volunteers in the community, I strongly urge you to maintain the exemption for School Psychologists without any revisions or changes to the Model Act for the licensure. Again this exemption as is has contributed to their growth as professionals who are properly trained and educated to provide valuable and essential services to our more than 74,000 schools. I urge you today, not to disrupt the programs and services already in place with the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Christine Scott-Davenport

Chapter President/Organizer

Anne Arundel County Chapter