Further Information Contact:

DATE YourName, YourPhone, YourEmail

**\*YOUR ASSOCIATION NAME\* to Host Advocacy Action Day on**

**November 13, 2019 During School Psychology Awareness Week**

*School psychologists from across the state to advocate for commonsense school safety measures, improved access to school-employed mental health services for students, and more rigorous curricula.*

YourStateCapital, YourState— In coordination with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), \*YOUR ASSOCIATION\* is hosting a virtual hill day on November 13, 2019. School psychologists across the state will be writing to their state legislators as part of National School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW), which is November 11–15, 2019.

In light of recent tragedies, school psychologists in \*Your state\* and across the country believe it is important that state legislators address three issues affecting students’ ability to learn in an environment that is safe, supportive, and conducive to learning.

*Commonsense School Safety*

When students do not feel safe and supported at school, both physically and psychologically, they cannot learn to their fullest potential. This means supporting policies that promote sustainable crisis prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery while rejecting proposals that seek to allow anyone other than a commissioned school resource officer to be armed on a school campus.

*Access to School-Employed Mental Health Services*

One in five children and youth experience a mental health disorder, and about 80% who need mental health care do not receive it. With suggested staffing ratios for school-employed mental health professional (250:1 for school social workers, 250:1 for school counselors, and 500–700:1 for school psychologists) not being met by most school districts, state leaders need to make a sustained commitment to achieve these key staffing ratios to ensure students are receiving the support they need.

*High Quality, Well-Rounded, Rigorous Curricula*

Comprehensive 21st century education includes social–emotional competency, self-control, problem-solving and conflict resolution skills, the ability to access and evaluate the validity of information, and the ability to thrive in an increasingly competitive global economy. This means supporting school funding policies that promote equitable access to resources for all students and ensuring that teacher preparation, training, and professional development programs prepare teachers to work with diverse student populations.

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About your organization

About NASP: The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) represents 25,000 school psychologists throughout the United States and abroad. NASP empowers school psychologists to promote the learning, behavior, and mental health of all children and youth.

For further information contact [LOCAL CONTACT] or NASP Director of Communications Kathy Cowan at 301-347-1665 or kcowan@naspweb.org, or visit www.nasponline.org.

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