

KPA Advocacy Priorities 2026 Legislative Actions

Priority 1: Protect the practice of psychology in scope, parity, and workforce presence.

KPA prioritizes supporting legislation that values protecting the practice of psychology by advancing the vital scientific knowledge base of psychologists, monitoring encroachment from other professions on services clearly defined as the practice of psychology, ensuring parity of behavioral health with physical health in all aspects of coverage, benefits, and cost, and strengthening psychology's voice in the workforce in matters of behavioral health and wellness.

2026 Specific Legislative Actions

- a) Support legislation updating KRS 319 to decrease barriers to licensure in Kentucky and improve the functioning of the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology.
- b) Support legislation to enhance mental health parity in Kentucky, including strengthening enforcement of parity violations.
- c) Support legislation that decreases prior authorization requirements for behavioral health services.
- d) Support legislation that would remove the use of Body Mass Index in healthcare coverage of eating disorders of other mental health conditions.
- e) Support legislation to allow licensed psychologists to prescribe psychiatric medication following completion of appropriate coursework and clinical training.
- f) Support legislation that allows for interstate practice in behavioral health only when it requires practitioners to follow Kentucky law.

Priority 2: Promote Health, Health Equity, and Population Health in Kentucky.

KPA prioritizes supporting legislation supporting a healthcare industry and educational system that assures equitable access to services for all citizens, including historically marginalized populations including people of color, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people living in poverty. KPA will support legislation that addresses system inequities and racism, uses social determinants of health and population health outcome metrics, protects psychologist-patient confidentiality and privilege when discussing health choices including reproductive health and gender affirming care, and provides prevention and early intervention services.

2026 Specific Legislative Actions

- a) Oppose legislation to further restrict or eliminate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work from colleges, universities, or K-12 schools.
- b) Support inclusive and safe bathroom design and oppose the restriction of gender-neutral bathrooms in schools.
- c) Support comprehensive healthy relationship/sex education in Kentucky public schools; there is research that shows a correlation between comprehensive health education and reductions in sexual assault, dating violence and homophobia.

Priority 3: Suicide prevention and behavioral health services and resources in the community.

KPA prioritizes supporting legislation that encourages evidence supported mental health interventions to promote the health, wellness, and quality of life among citizens. Priority interventions include life-saving resources to address the alarming suicide rates and violence rates, increased funding for behavioral health resources in the community, and ensuring evidence-based treatments are offered and harmful interventions offered as treatment are banned.

2026 Specific Legislative Actions

- a) Support the Crisis Aversion, Rights Retention (CARR) bill that would strengthen suicide and homicide prevention by temporarily removing guns from persons who are in crisis and are a danger to self or others.
- b) Support efforts to Ban Conversion practices to prohibit any mental health professional from using conversion practices with a minor and make those professionals subject to disciplinary action by their licensure board.
- c) Support for legislation that would allow individuals to put themselves on a “do not sell” firearms list, to strengthen individual self-advocacy for suicide prevention.
- d) Support legislation to remove barriers to Kentuckians accessing needed treatment and recovery services.