



Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Delegate Michael A. Jackson, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee, House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re. House Bill 1 – Built to Learn Act of 2020

Position: Support

Dear Chairman McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, and Appropriations Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists across the state. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across Maryland.

The purpose of this letter is to provide our support for House Bill 1, the Built to Learn Act of 2020, which is scheduled for hearing on January 23, 2020. This bill, among other things, authorizes certain provisions in order to provide funds that will be used to build or enhance educational facilities across the state.

As you know, public education facilities in Maryland have been chronically underfunded for some time. This underfunding has led to conditions in many of our school buildings that are not conducive for student learning. Specific concerns raised with our organization include poorly controlled temperatures, damp and moldy conditions, inadequate lighting, and water unsuitable for consumption. From a psychological framework, we know that basic needs must to be met before a child can be adequately available for instruction at school. Providing students with adequate facilities in which to learn fulfills some of those basic needs.

MSPA is in strong support of House Bill 1 – the Built to Learn Act of 2020. If I can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at legislative@mSPAonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Potter, Ph.D., NCSP
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association