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Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 896
Title: Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health
Treatment
Hearing Date: March 10, 2020
Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports with an amendment, *Senate Bill 896 – Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment*. This bill would establish a commission within the Behavioral Health Administration to study, evaluate, and revise guidelines for student behavioral health and mental health treatment and practice.

As originally drafted, this bill includes a review of guidelines for school-based health centers. Currently, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) manages the existing guidelines and oversight functions for school-based health centers. This work is done in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health’s Public Health Administration and other stakeholders.

We appreciate the Sponsor’s amendments to further define the intent of the legislation – to review the roles of certain school-employed professionals who work as part of pupil service teams. School-based health centers routinely interact with members of these teams, particularly as school staff identify and refer students to school-based health centers for services, including behavioral health services. Having a further understanding of what each of these team members roles and functions are is critical for community partners, including school-based health centers, who work in schools aside these professionals.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartner.net or (410) 693-4000.