



Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Inc.

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
11 Bladen St., Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB 634 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Provision of School Psychology Services

Position: Support

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express strong support from the Maryland School Psychologists' Association for SB 634, presently before the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA) is a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. School psychologists have extensive training and expertise in evaluation, data collection and analysis, mental health service provision, academic and behavioral intervention, and staff development. School psychologists are integral to our state's schools and can significantly impact students' academic and behavioral health outcomes.

This legislation will make changes to Medicaid billing rules so that certified school psychologists will be able to bill for services rendered within their scope of practice in Maryland's public schools. These services would include psychological assessments and counseling services. School psychologists are already providing these much needed services throughout our state's public schools. Current rules do not allow school psychologists to bill because state regulations require a professional license and school psychologists are certified through MSDE, not professionally licensed.

Currently, many school providers (such as speech-language pathologists) are able to bill Medicaid for their services in the school setting, which contributes additional monies to their school districts. It is our hope that by allowing school psychologists to bill Medicaid for the services that we provide in our public schools we can increase funding for our schools and possibly even provide additional funding for more school psychologists.

We are surprised that SB 634's fiscal note states that certified school psychologists would be unable to bill Medicaid and receive matched federal funds. There are several other states that are able to do this for certified school psychologists, including Florida, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. Attached to this letter is information on those state's Medicaid reimbursement plans as it pertains to certified school psychologists. This information has also been provided to the fiscal analysts, and we look forward to a revised fiscal analysis soon.

For all of these reasons, MSPA respectfully asks the House Health and Government Operations Committee **to report favorably on SB 634**. Please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org if we can provide additional information or be of any assistance as the Committee continues to consider Senate Bill 634. Thank you for your support of this important bill for Maryland's students.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Bradley D. Petry, Psy.D.
President, 2019-2020
Maryland School Psychologists' Association