



Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 14, 2022

Bill: House Bill 19 – Education - School Construction - Pedestrian Safety Plans (Safe Walk to School Act)

Position: Support

Dear Chairman McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

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

As school psychologists, our members believe that it is important to ensure that our community support safety and the wellbeing of students. House Bill 19 will ensure help ensure that students who walk to school will be able to do so safely. As Del. Solomon noted in the bill hearing last year over a third of pedestrian injuries involve children under the age of 19 and that nearly half of the incidents involved a student on their way to or from school. In order for students to be educated it is important that they feel safe at and on their way to school. We currently have requirements to ensure that students are safe on our school's buses and we should also ensure that students are safe while walking to school.

To ensure student safety, MSPA strongly urges a favorable report on House Bill 19. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org or Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or 443-350-1325.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association