



Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 8, 2022

Bill: House Bill 625 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland - Establishment

Position: Support With Amendment

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, 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 well-being of students and families across the state.

We support this bill because our state is currently experiencing serious shortages in our health care workforce. One important part of our health care workforce are the providers that work in our schools. Although we think HB 625 is a good first step, we would like to see a clarifying amendment to make clear this commission should also look at health provider workforce shortages in our schools, including certified school psychologists.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 625. 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