

Oppose 2024 House Bill 0829

Eszter Szabo
Bethesda, MD 20817
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It is not clear why the state needs to enact a law regarding a requirement to a mental health first aid training program. The state must have oversight over the preparation of the budget for the Maryland Department of Health since it is a state agency. During the process of budgeting, it would be the proper time to include funds dedicated to mental health first aid training which can fund such program without a law. This doesn't need to be legislated.

If such training is to be carried out, employees of the state need to receive priority, such as first responders, police, other law enforcement agencies, teachers, counselors, etc. These employees are used to receiving various trainings from the state. Thus their training program could be made wholesome by adding this training. However, marketing these trainings to employees (of private businesses) who generally do not receive these kinds of trainings could backfire and lead to misdiagnosing customers which can create discrimination or harassment.

Please vote against this bill.

Sincerely