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Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **House Bill 1317 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Use of Reimbursement Funds by Schools**

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, is writing in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 1317 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Use of Reimbursement Funds by Schools**, which can help to boost the availability of school psychologists in Maryland's schools.

School psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to Maryland's students, including counseling, consultation and assessment. We are acutely aware of the significant mental health needs of many of our students, and we are dedicated to helping to address those needs in our schools. Yet many school psychologists work with very heavy caseloads, and are spread so thinly that they simply cannot help many of the students who need our support. And since there is a severe and increasing shortage of qualified school psychologists available to work in Maryland's public schools, we are facing an impending staffing crisis for this profession. Data collected by the National Association of School Psychologists indicate that the staffing crisis is worsening in Maryland (<https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>).

HB 1317 will help to address this crisis by providing local school systems with additional resources for recruiting and supporting more school psychologists for our schools. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 1317. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Corrado, Psy.D.

Brian Corrado, Psy.D.
President

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
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