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January 27, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Bill: Senate Bill 68 – Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools – Comprehensive Plan**

### **Position: Support**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, 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 Senate Bill 68 - Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools – Comprehensive Plan, which will expand the capability of local school systems to implement restorative practices and thereby better support student accountability for behavior through community social connections and improved relationships between individuals.

Enabling schools to become “Restorative Practices Schools” as defined in the bill will support positive classroom environments and result in decreases in achievement gaps for students with disciplinary issues, absenteeism, and related challenges. The restorative practices approach deals holistically with student behavior by handling behavioral incidents as they arise along with increasing social and emotional skills in students and staff. Thus, conflict and disruptions are reduced and marginalized students are more likely to succeed. We urge that SB 68 receive a favorable report.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 68. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of MPA’s Legislative Committee, Dr. Stephanie Wolf, at [mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

*David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.*

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President

*Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.*

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Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs