



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

February 10, 2025

**Bill: House Bill 0612 – Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment**

Position: Support

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

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), which is a professional organization that represents about 500 Maryland school psychologists. Through our work in schools, we promote students, social-emotional, academic, and behavioral development. To further those ends, we support HB 0612 with the suggested amendments described below.

HB 0612 recognizes public schools that provide specific health and safety training as "Lifesaver Schools". To qualify, schools must offer evidence-based CPR and first aid training; offer a mental health wellness program or peer mentoring program; provide service hours for health and wellness activities; and provide resources on the school website regarding physical or mental health. MSPA supports all legislation that increases mental health resources available to students and that encourages Maryland schools to prioritize students' mental and physical health.

To further emphasize the bill's focus on mental health, we suggest line 16 on page 2 be amended to read "...wellness program and a peer ,,," and that the word "or" be replaced with "and" in line 23 of page 2 and line 1 of page 3. If we can provide any further information or be of any assistance, please contact us at [legislative@mspaonline.org](mailto:legislative@mspaonline.org) or Sarah Peters at [speters@hbstrategies.us](mailto:speters@hbstrategies.us) or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Co-Chair, Legislative Committee  
Maryland School Psychologists' Association.