



February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Bill: HB 612: Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development.

We are writing in support of House Bill 612, which would establish the Lifesaver School Program in Maryland schools. Training students and school personnel in cardiopulmonary resuscitation increases the safety net for students with disabilities in Maryland. Children with autism specifically are three times more likely than their non-disabled peers to die of choking (Guan & Li, 2017). This program teaches a key skill that has the potential to put more people in the right place at the right time in Maryland schools. For these reasons, the Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association supports House Bill 612.

Thank you,

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Director of Advocacy and Public Policy

Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

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