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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**02/18/2026**

**To: Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair**

**Delegate Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair**

**Ways and Means Committee**

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express its support for **HB 546 – Primary and Secondary Education – Educator Professional Development – Course on Well-Being and Flourishing.**

HB 546 directly supports Maryland educators at a time when the State continues to confront a persistent teacher shortage. While recent efforts have reduced the shortage by approximately half, many educators continue to leave the profession due to burnout, excessive workloads, mental health challenges, and a lack of institutional support. This bill addresses those ongoing challenges in a meaningful and proactive way.

HB 546 supplements § 6-132 of the Education Article by requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to provide a continuing professional development course focused on educator well-being and flourishing for school personnel and administrators. The course would include instruction on social well-being, emphasizing the importance of fostering positive relationships, collaboration, and a sense of community among staff. It would also address emotional well-being, including strategies for managing stress, expressing emotions, and adapting to emotional challenges. In addition, the course promotes financial well-being by educating participants on financial processes and available resources.

Educators frequently cite large class sizes, classroom management demands, administrative burdens, and inadequate support as reasons for leaving the profession. Many report feeling overwhelmed, undervalued, and exhausted. HB 546 responds to these realities by providing structured wellness education that supports both professional sustainability and quality of life.

Maryland's educators carry the immense responsibility of shaping future generations and preparing the leaders who will serve our communities and State. Supporting their well-being is essential to retaining strong educators and maintaining a healthy education system.

HB 546 aligns with the Maryland Women's Caucus's mission to support women, children, and families across Maryland by ensuring educators receive the tools and support necessary to thrive.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a **favorable report** on HB 546.