



Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re. Senate Bill 65 – Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks – Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists across the state. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across Maryland.

The purpose of this letter is to provide our support for Senate Bill 65, Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks – Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools, which is scheduled for hearing on January 22, 2020. This bill requires, among other things, that sidewalks and crosswalks be constructed to create safe routes to schools for students ineligible for transportation.

As you know, many Maryland students are ineligible for bus transportation based on their proximity to school. Ensuring that these students are able to get to and from school safely should be of utmost importance. Sadly, we have seen recently, in several jurisdictions in Maryland, that vehicle accidents involving pedestrians are rather common. Walking to and from school can be a risky endeavor for students who do not have a safe route. Senate Bill 65 helps to lower the safety risk students face when traveling to and from school.

MSPA is in strong support of Senate Bill 65 – Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks – Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools and we respectfully urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

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