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February 18, 2020

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RE: SB 611 & HB 782 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provision of School Psychology Services: OPPOSE

Representative to APA Council

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Dear Chairs Kelley and Pendergrass,

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Robyn Waxman, PhD
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The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. **We oppose SB 611 and HB 782, which would eliminate the “Age of Consent” for children in need of mental health treatment.** Young children do not have the cognitive capacity to consent to such treatment without parental involvement, and it is not developmentally appropriate to expect them to be able to do so. Psychologists are frequently called upon to provide treatment for children showing signs of psychological distress and mental disorders. Parental involvement is essential when working with young children, and such treatment cannot be effective without such involvement.

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Thank you for considering our comments on SB 611/HB 782. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee consider these bills, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or exec@marylandpsychology.org. We urge an unfavorable report for this legislation.

Membership

Anne Regan, PhD
Samantha Marks, PsyD

Sincerely,

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Marianne O’Leary, PhD
Selena Snowe, PhD

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Kimberly Y. Campbell, Ph.D.
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Julie Bindeman and Nicole Newhouse

Julie Bindeman, Psy.D. and Nicole Newhouse, Psy.D.
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cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
J. William Pitcher, Esq., and Greg Snyder, MPA Government Affairs