



Support

HB 277 – State Department of Education – Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach

House Ways and Means Committee

February 5, 2020

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) strongly supports *HB 277 – State Department of Education – Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach*. This bill establishes the Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative in Maryland in order to respond to students who have experienced trauma.

Among LCPCM’s membership are many licensed clinical professional counselors that provide mental health services to children in and out of school settings. In both environments, we unfortunately see children with histories of trauma too frequently. Unsurprising, this trauma often affects all aspects of a child’s life, including academic performance.

As children spend the majority of their waking hours in school, those working in schools have a unique opportunity to identify possible symptoms of trauma and refer students to appropriate resources including school-based mental health treatment. Establishing uniform guidelines for all schools will provide assistance on what next steps are needed for students, their families, and school staff, especially when school-based resources are not available.

If we can provide any further information, including participating in any stakeholder efforts to assist in developing the guidelines, please contact our legislative representative, Rachael Faulkner, at (410) 693-4000 or rfaulkner@policypartners.net.