



Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee, House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re. House Bill 7 – Inspections for Mold Hazards and Mold or Moisture Problems

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Ways and Means 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 House Bill 7, Inspections for Mold Hazards and Mold or Moisture Problems, which is scheduled for hearing on January 28, 2020. This bill, among other things, requires the adoption of regulations to periodically inspect school facilities for mold hazards and mold or moisture problems.

Currently, the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) establishes standards for sufficiency using specific criteria for evaluating the suitability of school facilities. The IAC requires inspections and preventative maintenance of many systems in our school buildings, including but not limited to air conditioning, ventilation, heating, plumbing, and restrooms. Currently, the IAC rates schools based on their performance against those criteria. These ratings include mold. However, they currently do not require maintenance and inspections of mold hazards and moisture or mold. Exposure to mold can cause respiratory symptoms and problems with skin and eyes. If school conditions can make students sick, then those students will not be available for instruction.

MSPA supports House Bill 7 – Inspections for Mold Hazards and Mold or Moisture Problems, 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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