

January 18, 2021

RE: HB 244 / SB 161
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Attn: House Appropriations Committee

Support for HB 244 / SB 161 – Task Force to Study Mental Health care in Higher Education.

Good day members.

I am writing to you today to support expanding access to high education for students with chronic health conditions.

Parents and advocate for education fully support this important piece of legislation that may have a huge impact on the futures of many Maryland students. My son is a teenager with disabilities, and is preparing for college. I believe that data collection around the experiences of my son's disabled and non-disabled peers is vital. As young people prepare for the next step on their careers, is very important to capture and track the data related to the process of attendance and future success of all students at our institutions of higher learning.

This effort has the potential to help all Maryland's students gain access to equal, affordable, consistent, high-quality health care and educational opportunities that will serve them, and the taxpayers of Maryland, today and into the future. Helping students to stay in school and complete their courses of study. Healthier students means healthy workers, better paying jobs, and more tax revenue for the local, county and state agencies across Maryland.

We hope that you will all fully support this bill and take the actions to track the progress of children like my son, so that can help bring more health and education equality to all Maryland students.

Please vote to support HB 244 / SB 161 and establish a task force on improving health in higher education.

Thank you.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo,
Parent and advocate for children with disabilities and Maryland families.
Parent Advocacy Consortium