



Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: Senate Bill 126 – State Department of Education – Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices – Guidance and Assistance**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

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

School psychologists provide comprehensive services to Maryland's students. This includes the screening, assessment, and intervention of reading difficulties and dyslexia. We work closely with teachers, special educators, reading specialists, and speech/language pathologists, among others, to provide support to struggling readers in our schools.

The Maryland General Assembly passed the Ready to Read bill in 2019, which outlines procedures for screening of early literacy difficulties in young students. Senate Bill 126 follows that legislation in that it would create an advisory group charged with creating and maintaining a handbook that provides school systems and staff with the most up-to-date science on reading difficulties. The handbook also provides guidance for school systems on evidence-based interventions and screening programs for such difficulties. This is a resource desperately needed, as it has been our experience that schools often lack understanding of the most current reading science to the detriment of their students. MSPA is grateful for the opportunity for a school psychologist to serve on this advisory group, and we look forward to contributing to positive reading outcomes for our students.

MSPA is in strong support of Senate Bill 126 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](mailto:legislative@mSPAonline.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Potter".

Kyle Potter, Ph.D., NCSP  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Maryland School Psychologists' Association