



Delegate Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Delegate Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: House Bill 915 – Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals

Position: Support

Dear Chair 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.

MSPA and our national affiliate organization, the National Association of School Psychologists, has been prioritizing recruiting individuals from underrepresented populations for some time. These efforts include working towards expanding current school psychology graduate programs across the state, but especially in our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are listed in the bill. Currently, Bowie State University has a school psychology graduate program, which has limited capacity because of funding; none of the other HBCUs in Maryland do. We are encouraged to see this important legislation in the Maryland General Assembly as this issue is very important for the wellbeing of the individuals who seek behavioral health treatment and the success of that treatment in both community- and school-based settings.

MSPA supports HB 915 and we urge a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org, or Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or (410) 693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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