



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: Senate Bill 548 – Public Schools – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Surveys - Revisions**

**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.

This letter is to express our support for Senate Bill 548, which would require the Maryland State Department of Education to establish procedures for the administration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey, including the Youth Tobacco Survey, to public school students. The data gathered from these surveys help public health and education researchers understand and monitor health-related behaviors that contribute to common causes of death and disability among youth and adults. These include sexual behavior related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol and drug use, and unhealthy dietary behaviors. The anonymous results of these surveys are considered public domain and are available for free to anyone who wishes to use them. As a result, these data have become invaluable to researchers across the country who use them to better understand youth behaviors in order to better equip schools and professionals to target preventative and interventional measures. The data also allow for data-driven analysis of progress toward meeting school health and health promotion program goals.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 548. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at [legislative@mSPAonline.org](mailto:legislative@mSPAonline.org), or Rachael Faulkner at [rfaulkner@policypartners.net](mailto:rfaulkner@policypartners.net) or (410) 693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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