



Testimony before Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

****Support****

SB 405

Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information

February 25, 2021

Maryland's Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW – MD), which represents professional social workers across the state, supports

SB 405 requires each institution of higher education to provide the telephone number of Maryland's Helpline on student identification cards. Social workers are often involved at each of the affected systems that interact with individuals in crisis.

Maryland already requires local school systems to provide the Maryland Crisis Hotline on the identification cards for students in grades 6-12 (§ 7-431 of the Education Article). This is a common sense approach to ensure students attending higher education also have this important number.

Mental health practitioners and experts have been increasingly concerned throughout the COVID-19 outbreak about the signs of increased suicidality across demographics. We certainly want to make sure that Maryland teens have easy access to the assistance they need.

For these reasons we ask you give a favorable report on SB 405.

Respectfully,

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