



March 26, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support – HB 1166: Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Requirements, Reporting, and Training

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS and WPS support House Bill 1166: Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Requirements, Reporting, and Training (HB 1166) as amended. The physical and mental health of students, especially those who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, is paramount, which HB 1166 seeks to ensure. HB 1166 wisely promotes trauma-informed and positive behavior interventions, which are sound approaches to student behavior issues. HB 116 also creates sound policies through the data collection that is mandated in the bill and then placed in the purview of the State Superintendent of Schools for consideration and uniform action if necessary.

MPS and WPS would then ask the committee for a favorable report of HB 1166. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society  
Joint Legislative Action Committee