

**SB0405 MHAMD FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Allen, Emily

Position: FAV

**Senate Bill 405 Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information**  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
February 25, 2021  
**Position: SUPPORT**

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health, mental illness and substance use. We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 405.

SB 405 requires higher education institutions that provide student identification cards to include the telephone number of Maryland’s Helpline. It can also include the telephone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, or an on-campus crisis center.

As of 2018, suicide was the second leading cause of death among individuals ages 10-34 and the fourth leading cause of death among individuals ages 35-54 in the United States. That year suicide claimed the lives of 48,000 people.<sup>1</sup> Death by suicide has been on the rise in Maryland over the last two decades, and most recently increased from 581 deaths in 2016 to 630 deaths in 2017, and again to 650 in 2018.<sup>1,2</sup> In 2018, it was the third leading cause of death for individuals ages 10-34 in Maryland.<sup>2</sup>

Students in higher education are under increased stress. In a survey provided to nearly 68,000 students in 2019, over the previous 12 months, 50.7% reported feeling overwhelming anxiety, 60.7% felt “very sad,” 37.1% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, and 47.9% felt things were hopeless. Further data showed 11.6% seriously considered suicide, 1.8% attempted suicide, and 5.6% reported self-injurious behaviors.<sup>3</sup> Our students are struggling and have been for many years. This bill provides students with quick and easy access to help during a crisis and can help reduce deaths by suicide.

Maryland law already requires that Maryland Crisis Connect be printed in student handbooks and on student ID cards for grades six through twelve. It is time to expand similar requirements to higher education. For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 405 and urges a favorable report.

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<sup>1</sup>National Institute of Mental Health. (2021, January). *Suicide*. Retrieved from <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/suicide.shtml>

<sup>2</sup>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (n.d.). *Suicide facts & figures: Maryland 2020*. Retrieved from <https://aws-fetch.s3.amazonaws.com/state-fact-sheets/2020/2020-state-fact-sheets-maryland.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>American College Health Association. (2019). *National College Health Assessment Spring 2019 reference group executive summary*. Retrieved from [https://www.acha.org/documents/ncha/NCHA-II\\_SPRING\\_2019\\_US\\_REFERENCE\\_GROUP\\_EXECUTIVE\\_SUMMARY.pdf](https://www.acha.org/documents/ncha/NCHA-II_SPRING_2019_US_REFERENCE_GROUP_EXECUTIVE_SUMMARY.pdf)

**SB0405-153321-01.pdf**

Uploaded by: Augustine , Malcom

Position: FAV



**SB0405/153321/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

17 FEB 21  
11:26:51

BY: Senator Augustine  
(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 405  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after “hotline” insert “or crisis center”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 2, after “HELPLINE” insert “, OR AN ON-CAMPUS CRISIS CENTER THAT OPERATES 24 HOURS A DAY AND 365 DAYS A YEAR,”; in line 4, after “LINE,” insert “THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE,”; and in lines 4 and 5, strike “AN ON-CAMPUS CRISIS CENTER ON THE CARD,” and substitute “ANY ON-CAMPUS CRISIS CENTER ON THE CARD”.

**2021 NASW SB 405 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Faulkner, Rachael

Position: FAV



**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,

Daphne McClellan, Ph.D., MSW  
Executive Director, NASW-MD

# **SB405 ID Cards Testimony 2\_25.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hawkins, Ashley

Position: FAV

The University of Maryland Student Government Association  
Testimony for SB405  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021  
Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information  
POSITION: FAVORABLE

My name is Ashley Hawkins and I am a member of the Student Government Association at the University of Maryland, College Park. I'd like to start by thanking Chair Pinsky and all the members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this bill. Thank you also to Senator Augustine for introducing this legislation, which will ensure that all USM students have access to essential mental health services at all times.

I would not be able to provide this testimony if not for the mental health services provided by the University of Maryland. As a freshman, I sought help from our Counseling Center multiple times and had to wait three weeks for an appointment due to the lack of immediate available sessions. After receiving aid from both the Counseling Center and the Health Center's Behavioral Health Services, my grades went up, I became more involved on campus, and I felt more empowered to succeed. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the UMD Counseling Center saw almost 10,000 students<sup>1</sup>. As the lack of available appointments indicates, I was not alone in my struggle. As we entered the fall semester this year, data from our university highlighted that students felt more alone and were showing more signs of depression. Our Counseling Center has made modifications to increase appointment availability, but the reality is that the Counseling Center alone cannot respond to the mental health concerns of all students.

This bill protects the health and safety of students by providing them with easily accessible mental health resources via the Maryland Crisis Hotline. Placing this number on the ID cards distributed at almost every institution ensures that students have the necessary help in a vulnerable moment, supporting them in their weakest moments. We also urge this committee to follow the lead of California's and Kentucky's state legislatures by including the National Domestic Violence Hotline and National Sexual Assault Hotline in the optional numbers that institutions may provide. In order to best serve the campus community, all students need access to essential crisis services.

It is for the health and safety of all University System of Maryland students that we, the Student Government Association at the University of Maryland, urge a favorable report on the Student Identification Cards – Required Information Act.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Hawkins, *Engineering Representative*  
Dan Alpert, *Student Body President*  
Ben Baitman, *Director of Government Affairs*

1. [Counseling Center Annual Review 2018-2019](#)



# **2021 AFSP\_MD FAVORABLE Testimony SB 405 Higher Edu**

Uploaded by: Maskaleris, Sue

Position: FAV

**RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 405**  
**(Higher Education - Student Identification Cards - Required Information)**

February 25, 2021

Susan M. Maskaleris  
Board of Directors – Advocacy/Public Policy Chair  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Maryland Chapter (AFSP-MD)  
Home Address: 3545 Smoke Tree Ct, Waldorf, Maryland 20602  
Home Phone: (301) 751-8781 Email: [smaskaleris@gmail.com](mailto:smaskaleris@gmail.com)

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

My name is Susan Maskaleris and I live in Waldorf, Maryland. I am the Advocacy/Public Policy Chair with the Maryland Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP-MD). I lost my father, a retired Air Force firefighter, to suicide when I was 14 years old. I live with a mental health condition, depression.

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of **Senate Bill 405**, which requires each institution of higher education to print the telephone number of Maryland's Helpline on student identification cards and authorizes institutions to also include telephone numbers of other mental health crisis hotlines.

According to the University of Maryland University Health Center, "suicide is reported as the second leading cause of death among college students, but it is preventable. The majority of college students who experience suicidal ideation also experience some form of mental health concern or distress, most commonly depression. The most effective way to prevent suicide is to identify the warning signs, intervene as appropriate, and refer to campus resources."

A recent study sponsored by the American College Counseling Association reported that less than 20% of students who died by suicide accessed their school's counseling center as a resource. This suggests a need for colleges and universities to increase awareness of the mental health programs and resources that are available for students who may be struggling. All students need the knowledge and tools to better recognize suicide risk in themselves and in their peers and to know where and how to seek help.

An American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) survey of more than 67,000 students across 108 institutions assessing mental health diagnoses and suicidality among undergraduate students revealed the following findings:

- One in five students (20%) have had thoughts of suicide, with 9% making an attempt and nearly 20% reporting self-injury.
- One in four students (25%) reported being diagnosed with a mental illness.
- Rates of stressful life events were high and associated with mental health issues.
- Sexual minorities showed elevated rates of mental health disorders and suicidality or self-injury. Transgender students showed particularly elevated rates of all outcomes, with approximately two-thirds reporting self-injury and more than one-third attempting suicide.
- Mental health issues are underreported and undertreated for racial or ethnic minorities.

Lifesaving information, such as how to access crisis intervention hotlines, mental health programs, and suicide prevention resources should be easily accessible by all students and faculty. Initiatives like HB 466 create more transparency with students and parents and increase the likelihood that students will connect with the services they need. Transparency and easily accessible information can reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and reinforce the notion that it is a sign of strength to seek help.

AFSP is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. We firmly believe that attention and commitment to suicide prevention within higher education can save young lives across Maryland.

Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the AFSP Maryland Chapter is grateful for your consideration of SB 405 and for working with your colleagues and other agencies to address the suicide rate among our college and university community. We all have a role to play in preventing suicide, and with your support, passage of this legislation will affirm the state's commitment to improving the lives of Maryland's young people and their loved ones and to prevent the tragic loss of life to suicide in the future. We urge a favorable report on SB 405. Please feel free to contact me at [smaskaleris@gmail.com](mailto:smaskaleris@gmail.com) or 301-751-8781 with any questions or if you would like additional information.

**Senate Bill 405\_Testimony\_25 Feb 2021\_Kaplan.pdf**

Uploaded by: Maskaleris, Sue

Position: FAV

**RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 405**  
**(Higher Education - Student Identification Cards - Required Information)**

February 25, 2021

Dorothy A. Kaplan, Ph.D.  
Board of Directors  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Maryland Chapter (AFSP-MD)  
Home Address: 10216 Garden Way, Potomac, Maryland 20854  
Phone: (301) 335-1954; E-mail: [dannekaplan@gmail.com](mailto:dannekaplan@gmail.com)

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

My name is Dr. Dorothy Kaplan and I live in Potomac, Maryland. I am a licensed psychologist in Maryland and a Board member with the Maryland Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP-MD). I began my career as a college professor and treated college students with psychological health conditions when I was in private practice in Bethesda, MD. I lost my mother and uncle to suicide when I was a graduate student and my grandfather to the same cause some ten years earlier. I supported my oldest daughter during her college years when she struggled with a life-threatening mental health condition accompanied by suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of **Senate Bill 405**.

The college years represent a period of increased vulnerability for a wide range of mental health (MH) challenges including suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Many students enter college with preexisting mental health challenges. Use of alcohol and other drugs may exacerbate mood disturbances and increase the risk for suicide.

Tragically, suicide is the second most common cause of death among college students. College students face unprecedented levels of stress that affect their mental health. In addition to increased academic demands, adjusting to a new environment, and developing a new support system during this transition, college students now have the added stress of COVID-19.

Research has shown that college students are experiencing increased stress and anxiety due to COVID-19 (**Effects of COVID-19 on College Students' Mental Health in the United States: Interview Survey Study**).

A study of the first six months of the pandemic (**COVID-19 and Mental Health: How America's High School and College Students are Coping during the Pandemic**) found that:

- More than ½ of all students were worried about their mental health.

- Half of all students reported experiencing anxiety, 1/3 reported experiencing depression, and almost a ¼ said they knew of someone with suicidal thoughts.

Whereas these statistics are alarming, there is also some cause to be optimistic about suicide prevention. The study also found that:

- More than ½ of all students have offered support to a friend whom they thought was struggling.
- More than ¾ of students who sought counseling from their school found it extremely, very, or moderately helpful.

If a young person can get through the intense, and short, moment of active suicidal crisis and access suicide prevention services, chances are they will not die by suicide. Printing the numbers of local crisis helplines on student ID cards ensures easy access to mental health providers and helps to reduce the stigma of reaching out for psychological support. It makes it easier for a student to help a friend in response to a late-night text and increases the likelihood that the student will connect with the services they need at the time of need.

Members of the Appropriations Committee, the AFSP Maryland Chapter is grateful for your consideration of SB 405 and we urge a favorable report on SB405. Please feel free to contact me at [dannekaplan@gmail.com](mailto:dannekaplan@gmail.com) or 301-335-1954 with any questions or if you need additional information.

**Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAV\_SB405.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sheahan, Molly

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**February 25, 2021**

**Senate Bill 405  
Higher Education - Student Identification Cards - Required Information**

**Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

**Senate Bill 405** requires institutions of higher education to list a suicide helpline on the back of student ID cards. Since students frequently carry their ID cards in their phone case or wallet, having the hotline number on their card will ensure help is just a phone call away.

The rate of suicide in Maryland has risen steadily over the last two decades and its effects devastate families and communities. Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for young people in Maryland<sup>1</sup> and in a single month last year during the pandemic, one in four college aged young people reported seriously considering suicide<sup>2</sup>.

Those experiencing mental illness are among the most marginalized and underserved in our society. The Catholic Church through its parishes, charities and other ministries reaches out pastorally to those struggling with mental illness. The Maryland Catholic Conference supports SB 405 because suicide prevention represents our commitment to the dignity of every human life and our belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. Any person experiencing mental illness or suicidal thoughts deserves compassionate care and healing to rediscover their intrinsic value and worth.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference respectfully urges a favorable report for **SB 405**. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#), "Suicide Facts & Figures: Maryland 2019"

<sup>2</sup> [CDC](#), "Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic" June 24–30, 2020



**SB405\_USM\_FWA\_CLARK.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clark, Andy

Position: FWA



**SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 405**  
**Higher Education - Student Identification Cards - Required Information**  
**February 25, 2021**  
**Favorable with Amendment**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts regarding Senate Bill 405. The bill requires each institution of higher education to provide the telephone number of Maryland's Helpline on student identification cards.

Overall, the Maryland Suicide Prevention Program aims to prevent suicide by collaborating with the Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention as well as various state departments, community agencies, providers, and members to increase awareness of suicide and improve preparedness to identify individuals at-risk, intervene, and provide support to promote healing and improved quality of life.

Suicide is reported as the second leading cause of death among college students, but it is preventable. The majority of college students who experience suicidal ideation also experience some form of mental health concern or distress, most commonly depression. The most effective way to prevent suicide is to identify the warning signs, intervene as appropriate, and refer to campus resources.

The operative words here are "campus resources." The USM asks that the bill be amended to give USM presidents the discretion to decide which crisis number appears on student identification cards.

The USM respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on Senate Bill 405.

**SB405\_MICUA\_SWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Fidler, Sara

Position: FWA

**Support with Amendments****House Appropriations Committee*****Senate Bill 405 (Augustine) Higher education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information*****Sara C. Fidler, President, [sfidler@micua.org](mailto:sfidler@micua.org)****February 25, 2021**

On behalf of the private nonprofit member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 66,000 students that we serve, we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in **support with amendments** to **Senate Bill 405 (Augustine) Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information**. This bill requires institutions of higher education to provide the telephone number for Maryland’s Helpline (2-1-1) on all student identification cards at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. While we understand the sponsor’s interest in having a simple universal number for this purpose, and we respect and admire the sponsor’s commitment to assisting our students in this manner, we write to advise you of several complicating and mitigating factors that may undermine the effectiveness of the intent of the bill.

**Relevance of the Maryland Helpline**

The Maryland Helpline may not be the resource that would be immediately or most helpful to one of our students who is in crisis. The response and services that would be most beneficial and relevant to a student living in College Park may not be the same as the response and services that would be most beneficial and relevant to a student living in Emmitsburg or Chestertown, for example. A student may also be more comfortable contacting a campus-based personal contact who has provided assistance in the past than an impersonal centralized call center. Further, a telephone number may not be the best technology for the age demographic of students at our institutions. Finally, we note that students who are home *in another state* on a holiday break or during the summer may not be well-served by the *Maryland* Helpline. We want to be sure to direct our students in crisis to the resources and services that will best serve their needs, and in a manner that will be most effective.

**Access to the Student ID Card**

If the premise of the bill is to ensure that students have access to crisis resources and services 24/7, 365 days per year, we note that students do not carry their id cards with them at all times, particularly when away from campus. Further, technology is evolving in such a way that several of our institutions will be replacing the traditional student id card with a mobile app in the near future.

## **Duplication of Existing Resources on Campus**

Our institutions are deeply concerned about the mental health and ability of our students to access resources and services during a crisis. To that end, we provide information during orientation and in the student handbook, we post magnets in residence halls, we affix posters around campus, and we indicate these resources and services in other social media and marketing materials. This campaign is robust and tailored to the needs of our particular student population.

MICUA schools offer a myriad of campus resources and crisis intervention services to our students, such as:

- Counseling centers that are open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm during the week;
- Phone triage support outside of student health center hours (one school is contracted with a local hospital);
- Referral to the local crisis hotline (and/or home county's crisis helpline);
- A 24/7 mental health support line;
- Trained residential/student life and student development staff to deescalate a crisis; and
- Trained campus police to collaborate with on-call student life or counseling center staff.

## **Proposed Compromise**

We recognize that this bill is a timely response to a unique mental health crisis created by the ongoing pandemic. However, we do not believe that *requiring* our institutions to provide the telephone number for Maryland's Helpline on an id card is the best way to address this issue. Instead, we suggest an amendment that would *authorize* us to provide this information if we determine that this telephone number is the best use of the limited space on a student's id card and an effective manner in which to reach our students. The amendment would be as follows:

**On page 2, in line 1, strike "SHALL" and substitute "MAY".**

We thank the sponsor for his willingness to work with us on this issue. We truly want to protect our students from harm and keep our campus communities safe. We look forward to being part of the conversation to accomplish this goal.

*For all of these reasons, MICUA urges a Favorable with Amendments Report on Senate Bill 405.*