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January 26, 2021

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House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Bill: HB 78 - Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)

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Shalena Heard, PhD

Position: Support with Amendment

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Dear Chair Pendergrass:

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **HB 78 Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)**, with the amendment language offered below.

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

We request adding to page 9, beginning after line 3, "**11. ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE;**" as a factor to be considered by the Commission in determining the impact on the health of residents of the State.

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Access to mental health care has been a major concern for many years, and the demand for mental health services has never been greater. The COVID-19 public health emergency has made clear the importance of providing access to mental health care to the citizens of Maryland. Efforts to identify disparities and develop solutions to address health equity now can only help the state of Maryland and its residents.

Ethics

Cindy Sandler, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 78 and asks for your favorable consideration of the amendment.

Membership

Rebecca Resnik, PsyD

Professional Practice

Selena Snow, PhD

If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or exec@marylandpsychology.org.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

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Paul C. Berman, PhD

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stefanie Reeves, CAE

Esther Finglass

Esther Finglass, Ph.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage Jr.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs