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OFFICERS OF THE BOARD January 26, 2021

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Esther Finglass, PhD

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

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6 Bladen Street
House Office Building, Rm 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Bill: HB 1121 Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Culturally Competent Practices..

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Position: Support with suggestions

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Andrea Chisolm, PhD
Shalena Heard, PhD

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

Representative to APA Council

Katherine Killeen, PhD

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **HB 1121 Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Culturally Competent Practices**, which seeks to promote the use of evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in their efforts to rehabilitate and treat juveniles under DJS’s supervision.

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Psychologists are at the forefront of attempting to implement evidence-based practices that are culturally sensitive to individuals seeking mental health service, hence our support for these efforts within the Department of Juvenile Services. We applaud the efforts to identify assessment tools and intervention strategies that have shown efficacy at and are culturally sensitive to treating the array of difficulties juveniles in the care of DJS struggle to manage in their lives.

We would respectfully like to suggest that the Department of Health be involved in the formulation of this workgroup. We would also ask that psychologists with expertise in the areas necessary to address the challenges juveniles face and familiarity with both cultural issues and the research on effective treatment of mental health disorders be included as members of the proposed workgroup.

Membership

Rebecca Resnik, PsyD

MPA would be pleased to work with the convenors of the workgroup to identify a list of psychologists, to participate on this workgroup, who are both interested and have expertise in the areas outlined in this bill.

Professional Practice

Selena Snow, PhD

For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1121 and asks for your favorable consideration of our suggestions. 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.

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Sincerely,

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