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March 17, 2021

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**Bill:** HB0009- Family Law- Mandatory Reporter Training **Position: Support**

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Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

##### ***Representative to APA Council***

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The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, would like to offer its support for HB0009—which establishes a free online course for mandatory reporters on the identification and reporting of child abuse.

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Robyn Waxman, PhD

We are aware of the vulnerability of children, particularly during this time of increased stress, and the necessity of ensuring that mandatory reporters are well educated to help protect children. MPA members are mandatory reporters, and in recognition of this important responsibility our organization has long offered education on this topic to our membership. The laws and their requirements can be quite confusing and at times unclear. Providing a resource that is readily available and consistent for all mandatory reporters should further enhance the safety of children and families in Maryland.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association supports the passing of H0009.

##### ***Ethics***

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Please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at [exec@marylandpsychology.org](mailto:exec@marylandpsychology.org) if we can be of assistance.

##### ***Legislative***

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Sincerely,

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