



10025 Gov. Warfield Parkway, Ste 102, Columbia, MD 21044-3308, 410-992-4258, 301-596-3999 fax: 410-992-7732 www.marylandpsychology.org

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February 8, 2020

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House Judiciary Committee
6 Bladen Street
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: HB701 Child Abuse and Neglect – Training of Health Care Professionals

POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **HB701** as this bill is a part of the State's ongoing efforts to improve the awareness of child abuse, the ability to identify children who have suffered from abuse and the steps required of health care professionals to aid abused children. MPAs members are too often reminded of the terrible damage resulting from child abuse and neglect. We see it repeatedly in our practices. We applaud efforts that have the potential to increase the safety of the children of Maryland.

The bill would create a list of common resources from which the boards of health care providers could draw to obtain the information necessary to better enable health care providers to identify and treat the children who struggle with the effects of child abuse. This bill recognizes the existence of programs and requirements already established by various health occupations boards. In doing so the bill enhances the efforts of the Boards to raise awareness and support consistency of knowledge among professionals who share a commitment to keeping children in Maryland safe and assisting in access to intervention for those unfortunate enough to have been abused.

For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 701.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 701. 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.

Sincerely,

Esther Finglass
Esther Finglass, Ph.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.
R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

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