



Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 377

Title: Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment

Hearing Date: February 3, 2021

Position: Support with Amendment

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 377 – Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment*. This bill brings together school behavioral health providers to review and make recommendations necessary to improve student behavioral health practices and programs.

Many licensed clinical professional counselors currently work in public schools, primarily through community-partnered behavioral health services programs, as defined under § 7-438 of the Education Article. Over the past decade, the Behavioral Health Administration has conducted several reviews of these services in schools, the most recent report as a result of the *Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018*. Unfortunately, these reports have never included a comprehensive review, bringing school-employed and community-partnered providers together with state agency partners to discuss the distinct roles and responsibilities of school behavioral health professionals, identify gaps in services, and develop recommendations to ensure all Maryland students have access to behavioral health services.

LCPCM is requesting an amendment to the membership of the Commission to include a representative from a community-partnered school behavioral health services program.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.