



February 20, 2021

Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of HB 1096: School Psychologist Training and Recruiting.**

Members of the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee.

As a parent and advocate for persons with disabilities, I can't help but support bill HB 1096. Many of us in the advocacy community have been requesting more training for our school psychologists.

This bill could not come at a better time, given the great need that has been created by Covid 19 and students being out of school or attending remote classes for more than 11 plus months between 2020 and 2021 school academic years.

Parent Advocacy Consortium (PAC) supports this bill as it promotes training, recruiting for skilled school psychologists, as well as inclusion and certification by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). More children will be in great need of the Positive behavioral Support programs that are promoted and implemented by members of NASP across the state and across our country.

PAC supports greater training of school resources and personnel to promote more humane and just inclusion in the learning environment for students with disabilities as well as students who identify as neuro-typical students. We have all been subjected to quite a shock to the education system over the course of the past year. Let's make some positive changes that will promote positive, evidence-based positive interventions that will support all students post Covid 19 pandemic and beyond.

This bill would bring about the training and certification of school psychologists within Maryland.

We hope that you will support HB 1096.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo  
Parent and advocate for persons living with disabilities  
Parent Advocacy Consortium