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Bill: SB0161 - Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education

Position: Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Pinsky:

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The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **SB 161– Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education**, with the amended language offered changing " (i) one psychiatrist; and (ii) one nurse psychotherapist experienced in providing mental health services " and adding " two clinical representatives of college counseling offices with expertise in providing mental health services to college students, with at least one being a psychologist."

We support the aims of the task force to improve mental health access and resources on college campuses. Even prior to the impact of Covid-19, college mental health resources were strained, so an in-depth look at how the college mental health system might be improved is greatly needed. We have offered our amendment because psychologists currently provide the bulk of mental health services on college campuses and their viewpoints need to be considered in improving the system.

For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 161.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 161. 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

R. Patrick Savage Jr.

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cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
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