



Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: House Bill 439-Institute for Innovation and Implementation – Pregnant, Expecting, and 3 Parenting Students – Data Collection and Report

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

School psychologists provide comprehensive services to Maryland's students. We work closely with families, teachers, nurses and health techs, and community providers to support students who are experiencing challenges that impact their engagement in school, including students who are pregnant and parenting. Currently, many school districts in Maryland lack specific programs aimed at increasing positive outcomes for pregnant and parenting students. These students face socio-economic challenges stigma, which impede their ability to continue to access appropriate education while pregnant and parenting. HB439 provides a clear pathway for the Institute for Innovation and Implementation in the UMD School of Social Work to provide meaningful recommendations to the General Assembly to inform legislation and policy to benefit these students and fill a gap in many districts' support services.

MSPA is in strong support of House Bill 439 and we respectfully urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or our policy consultant, Rachael Faulkner, at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Potter, Ph.D., NCSP
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association