



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

Committee:	Appropriations Committee
Bill:	House Bill 916 – Higher Education - Programs for Behavioral Health Professionals in Primary and Secondary Schools - Requirements and Grant Program
Date:	March 10, 2022
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 916 – Appropriations*. This bill seeks to help address behavioral health staffing shortages by improving education options for non-traditional students.

Many students have difficulty completing behavioral health programs because they have to work while in school or have family obligations. This bill creates a fund to support education programs designed to support non-traditional students and members of underrepresented communities. We are only going to be able to address the current workforce shortage if all students interested in behavioral health can receive the required training. This bill will help address the difficulties many students face in completing their training.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or (443) 350-1325.