



Committee: Senate Health, Education and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 856

Title: Public Schools - Health Services - School Nurses

Hearing Date: March 8, 2022

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 856 – Public Schools - Health Services - School Nurses*.

This bill would ensure that every school has a full-time school nurse. There is currently a lot of discussion about the importance of behavioral health services in schools. We strongly support increased investment in childhood behavioral health services but believe that should be accompanied by increased investment in school nursing. School nurses play an essential role in identifying students in need of support and coordinating services. We support SB 856 because school-based behavioral health services are most effective when there is a school nurse to assist.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.