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February 22, 2022

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Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 899 - Unfavorable

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the **Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to unfavorably report on SB 899.**

We believe that the Board of Examiners of Psychologists can operate with adequate transparency, while best serving the mission of protecting the citizens of Maryland in its current form. Placing the responsibility for determining key members of the Board of Examiners in the hands of the Secretary of Health seems to risk the potential for these individuals to become political appointees which we do not believe would be in the best interest of our citizens nor for psychologists. Having members of the Board of Examiners, i.e., chair and vice chair independently appointed, through a vetting process that involves members of the psychological community and the Governor, has worked well and provides the professional expertise on the board necessary to make complicated decisions required of the BOE to protect our citizens safety.

For these reasons, and many others, the **MPA urges the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB 899.**

Please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at exec@marylandpsychology.org if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Linda McGhee

Linda McGhee, PsyD., JD
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs