



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: 410-992-7732. www.marylandpsychology.org

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

Linda McGhee, PsyD, JD

March 31, 2022

President-elect

Rebecca Resnik, PsyD

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

Past President

Esther Finglass, PhD

Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Secretary

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Bill: HB0699 - Behavioral Health– Grief Counseling Services

Treasurer

Brian Corrado, PsyD

Position: Support

Representatives-at-large

Shalena Heard, PhD
Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, is writing to express **SUPPORT for HB0699 - Behavioral Health– Grief Counseling Services** – which would establish a Grief Counseling Program by the Chief Medical Examiner in Coordination with the Behavioral Health Administration.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Ethics

Cindy Sandler, PhD

Experiencing any type of loss can be difficult, much less when that loss is due to a suicide or substance abuse. Providing support services to those experiencing these losses can have beneficial effects on one's mental and physical health, as well as helping to prevent the development of more significant disorders. MPA strongly supports providing counseling, resources and educational materials to individuals who have lost someone due to suicide or substance abuse.

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

For these reasons, MPA urges the committee to **favorably report on HB0699 - Behavioral Health – Grief Counseling Services**. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or exec@marylandpsychology.org.

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Selena Snow, PhD

Respectfully submitted,

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Sincerely,

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

Linda McGhee

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stefanie Reeves, CAE

Linda McGhee, Psy.D., J.D.
President

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

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs