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February 24, 2022

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Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 752 – Public Schools - School Psychologist Recruitment Program

Position: Support

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

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **HB 752 – Public Schools - School Psychologist Recruitment Program**.

School psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to Maryland's students, including counseling, assessment, and consultation. As school-based mental health professionals, they are acutely aware of the significant mental health needs of the students they work with, and they are instrumental in helping to address those needs in Maryland's schools. Yet many school psychologists are saddled with excessive caseloads and are simply unavailable to help many of the students who need their support. Given the severe and increasing shortage of qualified school psychologists available to work in Maryland's public schools, this is a crisis in the making.

HB 752 will help to fend off this crisis by providing MSDE with a mechanism for recruiting and supporting more school psychologists for our schools. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 752. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Linda McGhee

Linda McGhee, PsyD., J.D.
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