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March 24, 2022

Delegate Luke H. Clippinger, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: HB 1402

LETTER OF INFORMATION

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, would like to provide the following comments to the Committee with regard to HB 1402.

MPA supports appropriate reporting and notification regarding alleged sexual abuse and recognizes the important role of health care providers in identifying potential abuse. Given the complex and sensitive nature of these investigations, it is our belief that DSS/CPS are best positioned to determine what information should be shared with third parties about potential abuse situations, which third parties should receive that information, and when that information should be shared.

HB 1402 in its current format places those responsibilities in the hands of a health care practitioner, a process which would complicate and potentially delay the timeline of notification(s), as well as introduce the risk of an alleged abuser receiving information about an investigation before or concurrently with DSS/CPS.

For these reasons, MPA opposes the reporting changes suggested in HB1402, and supports maintaining current reporting requirements.

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, Psy.D., 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