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February 15, 2022

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: HB627 Position: SUPPORT

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, urges the Committee to provide a **favorable report on HB 627**.

Applied Behavior Analysis is a critical component in the treatment for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Many individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder do not receive needed treatment because their families are unable to pay for needed resources out of pocket.

HB 627 addresses an access to treatment issue. HB 627 requires that Maryland Medical Assistance Program reimburse for the services of a Registered Behavior Technician when supervised by a licensed psychologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral, or a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder who receive needed treatment are able to function more independently and more effectively in society.

HB 627 offers needed support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and for their families.

For these and other reasons, the MPA urges you to **SUPPORT HB 627**.

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