

HB 97- LOS- Workgroup- Underrepresented Behavioral

Uploaded by: Beverly Lang

Position: FWA



“Advocating for NPs since 1992”

Bill: HB 97- Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals

Position: Support with Amendment

On behalf of the over 800 members Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM), and the over 8,000 certified Nurse Practitioners licensed to practice in Maryland, I am writing to support HB 97 with an amendment. We understand and recognize the importance of studying and making recommendations about the behavioral health professions and fully support the need to form this workgroup.

This bill would establish a workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals and will provide for the composition, chair, and staffing of the workgroup. The bill includes language that lists the composition of the workgroup and states that three representatives from the mental behavioral health profession in the State will be appointed.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs) are advanced practice registered nurses who have been educated at either a Master’s or Doctoral level, and specialize in behavioral health. PMHNPs are uniquely qualified to be included as members of this workgroup.

We therefore respectfully request that the current language of HB 97 be **amended to include a PMHNP as one of the three representatives from the behavioral health profession.**

NPAM would be happy to assist with the search for a qualified PMHNP to fill one of the workgroup seats. Feel free to contact Beverly Lang, Executive Director, NPAM if you need additional information.

Kindest Regards,

Beverly Lang MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP

Executive Director,

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HB 97_MoCo_Saenz_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Carmen Saenz

Position: FWA



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 97

DATE: January 20, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate Amprey

ASSIGNED TO: Health & Government Operations

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals

This bill establishes a workgroup to identify and study the shortage of behavioral health professionals in the State who are Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, or otherwise underrepresented in the behavioral health profession and to make recommendations methods to increase the number of such health professionals

Montgomery County strongly supports House Bill 97 because of the need to improve access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental and behavioral health providers for residents across the state. There is a shortage of such providers and the County supports House Bill 97 as an essential part of comprehensive action by the legislature to examine how racial and ethnic minority groups would benefit from the study of, and improvement to, behavioral health services across several areas of service delivery.

Montgomery County would eagerly welcome the opportunity to serve on the Workgroup, and in furtherance of this goal, we ask that the Workgroup membership be amended to add a representative of the Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland, a program of Montgomery County government and part of the national "Welcome Back Center Initiative"¹. The Welcome Back Center is uniquely positioned to provide the Workgroup with expertise about the experience of foreign-trained health professionals in attaining educational and licensure credentialing in Maryland and the challenges these professionals face that all too often keep them from practicing in their fields of training.

Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to adopt the above amendment and issue a favorable report.

¹ The Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland is an innovative model that builds on the personal and professional assets of immigrants living in the United States to: further address health professional shortages; diversify the health workforce; provide economic opportunities to underutilized individuals as they return to work in the health field; and enhance health outcomes of the entire community. In 2006, the Latino Health Initiative (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services) launched The Foreign-Trained Health Professionals Program to facilitate the Maryland health professions licensure process. In 2010, this program became the "Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland," one of several centers comprising the national "Welcome Back Initiative" network. The center provides a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach to effectively address the needs and decrease the challenges and barriers foreign-trained health professionals encounter in Maryland in obtaining their licenses. <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Program.aspx?id=OCA/OCAWelcomeB-p482.html>

2022 MSPA HB 97 House Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FWA



Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 14, 2022

Bill: House Bill 97 – Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals

Position: Support with Amendment

Dear Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

House Bill 97 addresses the underrepresentation of Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and others in behavioral health professions. MSPA is in support of the development of this workgroup, and we are requesting to be added to the work group as a representative of the behavioral health professions. School psychologists are members of school teams who support mental and behavioral health in addition to learning and behavior. We partner with families, teachers, school communities, and others to create healthy, safe, supportive learning environments for all students. Every school in the state of Maryland has a school psychologist assigned to work with them. We are the most highly trained and qualified behavioral health professionals present within schools.

Unfortunately, there is significant underrepresentation of a variety of populations in school psychology, and a critical shortage of culturally and linguistically diverse school psychologists. Most school psychologists identify as white and provide monolingual services in English¹. However, our school-age population is rapidly increasing in culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We know that support we need to improve in recruitment and retention of culturally and linguistically diverse school psychologists in order to adequately address these growing needs. The workgroup established under House Bill 97 would allow us to collaborate with other professionals and organizations in order to reduce this critical shortage and underrepresentation.

To address underrepresentation of culturally and linguistically diverse school psychologists, MSPA urges a favorable report with an amendment that our organization is added to the work group identified through House Bill 97. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or 443-350-1325.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association

¹National Association of School Psychologists. (2016). NASP Position Statement: Recruiting and retaining CLD graduate students.