

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3006

February 24, 2023

Chair Benjamin S. Barnes
Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Vice Chair Mark Chang
Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Chair Barnes and Vice Chair Chang,

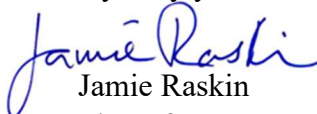
Greetings to you and all my excellent former colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly. I write to convey my strong support for Delegate Boafó's bill to establish an advisory committee on mental health care access for students at Maryland's institutions of higher education.

In their October 2019 Joint Chairmen's report on campus mental health services, the Chancellors of the University System of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Morgan State University reported increased student demand, long wait times, strained resources, and staffing shortages. Nationwide, rates of depression and anxiety among college students increased significantly over the past decade, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these challenges for many students.

These complex and urgent issues require thoughtful consideration and decisive action from policymakers. To that end, Delegate Boafó's legislation would establish a committee to examine why it is so challenging for many of Maryland's colleges and universities to meet the current demand for mental health services, and would identify promising best practices and care models. Starting as soon as December 2023, the committee would make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature on how we can most effectively improve access to mental health care for Maryland's college students.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and for all your crucial work to ensure our young people can get the mental health care services they need.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress