

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
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March 7, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Appropriations Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 375 – Education – Coaches – Mental Health First Aid Training

Dear Delegates,

We oppose HB 375 and respectfully request that you vote against it.

Although the bill does not “mandate” that all coaches undergo this mental health first aid training it is implied.

Our question to you is, is this something that the coaches in the State have requested?

We feel that it is not within the needs of the coaches’ job to receive this kind of training. It is beyond the scope of their work duties and is another government overreach action to push requirements that the State thinks is a good idea, on those whose job scope does not include it.

If a coach feels that a student is struggling, they could be provided with a list of resources of mental health professionals to refer them to which is referenced in Article 7-452, 3, II in the bill.

This type of legislation further burdens the duties of coaches and creates more governmental red tape and hurdles that employees must surmount. It also adds to the Statewide budget which ultimately leads to increasing our taxes.

Instead of formal training, perhaps a recommendation of certain books could be made and leave it up to each coach to decide if they feel the need of the knowledge.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers