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February 24, 2023

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Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 121, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: House Bill 573 – Maryland Higher Education Commission – Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee – Establishment**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 573 – Maryland Higher Education Commission – Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee, which is designed to improve mental health access and resources on college campuses.

The mental health needs of the young adults attending Maryland's colleges and universities have never been greater. Even prior to the impact of COVID-19, college mental health resources were severely strained, and an in-depth look at how the college mental health system can be improved is greatly needed. We commend the inclusion of a campus-based psychologist on the Advisory Committee, as psychologists currently provide the bulk of mental health services on college campuses. For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 573.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 573. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Appropriations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at [mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca Resnik, Psy.D.*

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.  
President

*R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.*

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