

# **SB266\_MSEA\_Lamb\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 266  
Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports – Membership  
– Alteration**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment  
February 8, 2023**

**Lauren Lamb  
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 266, which would alter the membership of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports to include a school counselor designated by the Maryland School Counselor Association.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, created by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, has a critical role in ensuring that students and their families can access to behavioral health supports. Members who have firsthand experience providing support in a school setting are vital to this effort. The Consortium currently includes school-based members appointed by the Maryland State Education Association, the Maryland School Psychologists Association, and the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

School counselors have unique insights into students' needs. As the Consortium determines the best approach to scaling behavioral health services and assessing priority areas, their voices should be heard.

**We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 266.**

# **2023 MSCA SB 266 Senate Side FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Paddy

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 266 - Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports – Membership – Alteration

**Hearing Date:** February 8, 2023

**Position:** Favorable

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The Maryland School Counselors Association (MSCA) supports Senate Bill 266 – *Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports*. The bill adds a seat for school counselors on the advisory committee to the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports.

School counselors provide support for *every* student in the school. This position gives us a unique vantage point to understand the behavioral health needs of the entire student body. We provide short-term counseling services and make referrals to other providers, both in the school and community, when more one-on-one counseling is needed.

We want to contribute our expertise to the vital work of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, but there is no seat in which we could serve. We think our input can help the Consortium be successful. School counselors will be integrally involved in implementing the Consortium’s initiatives across the state at the individual school level.

The Accountability Implementation Board (AIB) recognizes the importance of the school counselors in the Consortium’s work. In its December 2022 report, AIB flagged that “(r)epresentation of school counselors on the Consortium” is among the issues that AIB will monitor and “may affect the Blueprint’s implementation and success in realizing its expected outcomes.”<sup>1</sup>

The Consortium’s work is critical as Maryland schools are facing a behavioral health crisis. The Annie E. Casey Foundation found that there has been a 36% increase in the number of children, between the ages of 3 and 17 years of age, with anxiety or depression in Maryland using 2020 data.<sup>2</sup> We are committed to supporting the Consortium in reversing this trend.

We ask for a favorable report. We thank the sponsor and the Committee for all of your work in supporting Maryland’s students. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18fuoxFa2QCIRcYtOyilt4m87-HavBVtJ/view>

<sup>2</sup> <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2022kidscountdatabook-2022.pdf>

# **2023 MSCA SB 266 Senate Side FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nikki Ham

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 266 - Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports – Membership – Alteration

**Hearing Date:** February 8, 2023

**Position:** Favorable

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