

X HB 375 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Maddie Long

Position: FAV



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 375: Education – Coaches – Mental Health First Aid Training**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Position: Favorable**

March 29, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. **Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on House Bill 375: Education – Coaches – Mental Health First Aid Training.**

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state’s students. This includes targeted investment in mental and behavioral health services, particularly to students who lack access to adequate healthcare. The Blueprint expanded school-based health centers and increased State funding for local school systems to train school staff to recognize student behavioral health issues and assist local school systems with their training programs. This bill supports the vision of the Blueprint by equipping more school staff with the tools needed to support the mental health of students under their supervision.

House Bill 375:

- Requires the development of guidelines for public schools and higher education institutions to train coaches in providing mental health first aid; and
- Requires each public school and higher education institutions in Maryland to provide mental health first aid training to coaches.

Our country is in the midst of a national youth mental health crisis. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that while there have been considerable measures taken to address adult mental health issues post-pandemic, there are often considerable gaps in capacity to serve youth and families.¹ In Maryland specifically, the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count data shows that in 2020, 12.8% of children and teens experienced anxiety or depression.² Athletes face many stressors, like perfectionism, threat of injury, and even fear. Sports can provoke new - or exacerbate existing - mental health issues in student athletes, thus the need for informed and trained coaches to respond to student mental health health crises.³

The Blueprint makes investments across all public schools to pre-emptively and responsively address school community behavioral and mental health needs, including trauma informed care. Adding additional mental health resources in our schools will only strengthen our commitment to providing safe and successful World-Class schools.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 375.

*For more information, contact Maddie Long:
maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org*

¹ [U.S. HHS](#)

² [Anne E. Casey Foundation](#)

³ [National Federation of State High School Associations](#)

HB 375- SUPPORT March 28.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Peters

Position: FAV



Bill: **House Bill 375 - Education - Coaches - Mental Health First Aid Training**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, 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.

We are writing in support of House Bill 375 - Education - Coaches - Mental Health First Aid Training. Mental Health First Aid is a program used internationally to teach the necessary skills to recognize mental health challenges in youth and adults, and connect those individuals to appropriate services. Specifically, the Youth Mental Health First Aid curriculum teaches adults who work directly with youth to respond to mental health challenges in both crisis and non-crisis situations. The curriculum teaches a structured model that is designed to be used by adults with no formal mental health training. Coaches are uniquely situated in our schools and act not only as athletic coaches, but also mentors, advisors, and trusted adult. Because of their proximity to students, they are the ideal candidates to receive this training, which will support the mental health needs of our students.

For these reasons, we are strongly in support of HB375 and urge a favorable report. If we can provide any further information or be of assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Morgan State Bill Response - HB375.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Benn

Position: FAV



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David K. Wilson, President**

House Bill 375 (Delegate Attar)
Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 29, 2023

Favorable

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 375. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Requiring the State Department of Education to develop guidelines for public schools and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches in providing mental health first aid to students who participate in athletic programs in public schools and public institutions of higher education; requiring public schools and public institutions that offer athletic programs to provide mental health first aid training to coaches; etc.*

Morgan State University is the preeminent public urban research university in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global interdependent society.

Morgan State favors House Bill 375.

Morgan State University is a strong proponent of this bill because it aligns with our *Strategic Goals to Promote Student Success and Well-being* across our campus community. Requiring coaches to become trained in Mental Health First Aid will assist our public schools and higher education institutions and connect our youth and college student athletes to the resources they need to address their mental health needs.

One of the main concerns confronting K-12 and post-secondary institutions of higher learning is trying to address the trauma related issues that manifested itself as a result of the Pandemic.

Educators, counselors, coaches, parents and families, and various health care entities are struggling to keep up with the growing demands of responding to the mental health needs of our youth and adult communities.

Athletics serves as a unifying entity for many public schools, colleges, universities, and local communities and coaches often have relationships with student athletes that are very trustworthy and respectful.

Morgan has been supportive of mental health improvements for many years. Morgan State, and other HBCUs in Maryland, is currently in partnership with Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) to train faculty, staff and students to understand the signs of mental health and enhance Mental Health Literacy of our faculty, staff, and students.

Requiring coaches to become trained in Mental Health First Aid will only strengthen our support for our student athletes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. David K. Wilson
President, Morgan State University

HB 375 - Support - MPS WPS (Senate Testimony).pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Tompsett

Position: FAV



March 27, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee
2 West – Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – House Bill 375: Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training

Dear Chairman Feldman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS strongly support House Bill 375: Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training as amended. Mental health first aid is a training program designed to help individuals identify, understand, and respond to someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. Coaches have an important role in the lives of their athletes, and they can play a crucial role in helping them manage mental health challenges. Therefore, coaches should be taught to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students.

Coaches are often the first point of contact for young athletes struggling with mental health issues. By providing coaches with the knowledge and skills needed to identify and respond to mental health challenges, they can better support their athletes and help them access the resources they need. Mental health training can help coaches recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, provide initial support, and refer athletes to appropriate resources, such as mental health professionals. Coaches can also learn how to create a supportive and inclusive environment for their athletes, which can promote positive mental health.

Overall, providing coaches with mental health training can help them become better equipped to support their athletes' mental health and well-being. Therefore, for all the reasons above, MPS and WPS ask the committee for a favorable report on HB 375. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee

HB 375 Crossover_ Education - Coaches - Mental Hea

Uploaded by: Alexa Thomas

Position: UNF



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director
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BILL: HB 375
TITLE: Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training
DATE: March 29, 2023
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **opposes** House Bill 375.

House Bill 375 would require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop guidelines for public schools, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches in providing mental health training to students who participate in athletic programs in public schools and public institutions of higher education. Additionally, this bill requires that public schools and public institutions offer programs to provide mental health training training to coaches.

PSSAM has a longstanding policy of opposing efforts to codify the development of rigid guidelines for any new or existing policy or program; this is especially true when these new requirements do not include a funding source and are ultimately unfunded mandates. Local superintendents strongly believe that the role of content development and implementation of activities described in this bill belong solely to local boards of education in conjunction with MSDE and applicable stakeholders. PSSAM's opposition to this bill is not a reflection of the merits of training athletic staff in mental health practices, but rather opposition to statutorily mandating development of training guidelines, especially those without additional funding appropriated.

For these reasons, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 375 and requests an unfavorable report.

FINAL HB375 Coaches Mental Health Training.pdf

Uploaded by: Grace Wilson

Position: UNF



HB375 EDUCATION – COACHES – MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

March 29, 2023

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OPPOSE

Grace Wilson, Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB375 Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training**. This bill requires each public school in the state that offers a mainstream athletic program to provide specified mental health training to each participating coach. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must work in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), each local board of education, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) to develop guidelines for public schools to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse.

While AACPS supports steps that elevate mental health awareness in athletics and believes that coaches are a key component in supporting the mental health of student-athletes, AACPS opposes legislation which creates unfunded mandates. This bill would require AACPS to implement the guidelines developed by MSDE, MDH, and MPSSAA in collaboration with local boards of education for training coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students. AACPS anticipates that significant funding will be needed in order to provide this additional training to public school coaches on mental illness and behavioral distress required by this bill. Given that this bill creates an unfunded mandate for local school systems, AACPS opposes HB375.

Furthermore, AACPS believes that this additional training for coaches is unnecessary given the mandate of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) to enhance student health services. Specifically, the requirement of pillar four, objective five of the Blueprint to ensure that student behavioral health needs are identified, and all students have access to behavioral health services through school-based or community-based services. As part of enhancing student health services, the Blueprint requires that local school systems provide the behavioral health training to certificated school personnel who have direct contact regularly with students and develop and implement a standardized screening to identify students with behavioral health service needs using an evidence-based approach. AACPS believes that student behavioral health needs will be adequately addressed through the implementation of the standardized screening, training for certificated staff, and development of enhanced student health services in both school and the community.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on **HB375**.

HB 375.Mental Health First Aid for Coaches SENATE.

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: UNF

BILL: House Bill 375
TITLE: Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training
DATE: March 29, 2023
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 375 based on serious concerns with a bill that, as amended, would continue to mandate that school systems provide training to all coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness in students.

MABE initially supported House Bill 375 with amendments to remove the mandate to provide the “mental health first aid” training specified in the bill, and appreciates that this amendment was adopted before the bill passed in the House. MABE also supports the bill’s proposal that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), each local board of education, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) develop guidelines for public schools to train coaches to heighten awareness regarding student mental health issues, including but not exclusively via the mental health first aid program.

However, MABE opposes House Bill 375 in its current form based on remaining objections to bill provisions mandating universal training of coaches. In addition, the bill continues to include terminology, such as “mainstream athletics” that MABE believes should be conformed to references to interscholastic athletics, intramurals, and other school sponsored athletic programs. Lastly, MABE opposes the stand-alone nature of the mandate to train coaches, relative the provision of professional development for other school personnel. Professional development is essential, worthwhile, and extremely staff time, and therefore budget, intensive. In this context, House Bill 375 also presents an unfunded mandate.

Again, MABE supports and advocates for the essential staffing and resources necessary to meet the mental and behavioral health needs of our nearly 900,000 public school students. The benefits and value of access to high quality school-based mental and behavioral health services for students and families, teachers and staff, and communities at large can hardly be overstated. Prior to the pandemic, evidence was mounting that additional resources were needed to provide the holistic array of social, emotional, behavioral and academic supports for all students. Then the pandemic saw a dramatic rise in students reporting experiencing anxiety and depression and other symptoms. Today, students and staff are coping with these accumulated challenges in an environment of educator and other professional staffing shortages.

MABE and all local boards place the highest priority on protecting our students’ physical and mental health and welfare while under our care and supervision, and therefore appreciate this bill’s intent to enhance the level of mental health training for coaches. However, for the reasons outlined above, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 375.