

Testimony before the Senate Finance Committee
Senate Bill 201: Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs -
School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement

****Support with Amendment****
February 7, 2023

The National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD) Social Work in Schools Committee would like to express support with some amendments for Senate Bill 201: Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement. NASW is the largest national organization of the profession, representing over 120,000 social workers nationwide, with 16,000 licensed in the state of Maryland. Our committee includes school social workers working daily in the majority of the public school systems in Maryland.

There has been widespread coverage of the current mental health crisis among school-aged children and youth. School Social Workers are committed to removing barriers to learning so that Maryland schools can graduate students with world-class preparation for college or career, as envisioned by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We applaud legislation that will support the availability of services for students in schools by providing both expanded services and an income stream to support them so that both school-employed and community-based providers can meet the complex needs of these students in the schoolhouse. These services can help to ensure that learning can occur and all can benefit from it.

We also ask for consideration of the four following amendments:

- On page 2, in lines 16 and 18, strike "~~CERTIFIED~~" and replace with CERTIFICATED
- On page 2, in line 12, strike "~~BY A SCHOOL-BASED~~" and replace with "IN A SCHOOL SETTING BY A"
- On page 2, after line 23, insert: "(5) LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS LICENSED UNDER TITLE 10 58 OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ARTICLE."
- Strike line 33 on page 2 through line 4 on page 3 in their entirety.

We ask that you return a favorable report to this amended version of SB 201.

Respectfully,

Mary Beth DeMartino, LCSW-C
Executive Director, NASW-MD