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February 5, 2023

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Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: Senate Bill 263 – Maryland Higher Education Commission – Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee – Establishment

Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, 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 Senate Bill 263 – 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 Senate Bill 263.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 263. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Education, Energy, and Environment Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at 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