



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 214 - Commission on Public Health - Establishment

**Hearing Date:** January 26, 2023

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers supports *House Bill 214 – Commission on Public Health - Establishment*. The bill creates the Commission on Public Health to make recommendations to address the infrastructure needs of the Maryland Department of Health and local health departments.

School-based health centers are community health centers within a school. We are supported by the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health under the Department of Health. At the local level, all school-based health centers collaborate with local health departments, with some local health departments serving as the sponsoring organization. Our state and local health departments have been underfunded and under-resourced for years, creating a system that was stretched beyond capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill offers an opportunity to focus on the needs of our public health agencies to rebuild their infrastructure, including workforce.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.