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Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 28, 2023

RE: Senate Bill 388 - Public Schools - Standardized Behavioral Health Questionnaire for Students - Development and Implementation

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 throughout the state, is writing to express **SUPPORT** for **Senate Bill 388 - Public Schools - Standardized Behavioral Health Questionnaire for Students - Development and Implementation**, which would serve to implement the admirable goal of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future that public school students receive regular behavioral health screenings, followed by appropriate follow-up referral when indicated.

Addressing the behavioral health needs of Maryland's school children is an essential role for our public schools – students perform better academically, and grow up to be better-functioning adults, when these needs are met along the way. Early identification of emerging behavioral health challenges through the questionnaire referenced in SB 388 can enable schools to offer effective interventions and to provide needed supports as early as possible, including referral to existing systems of behavioral support within the school. The Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports will benefit from the knowledge and experience of its members with behavioral health expertise in developing the guidelines for this questionnaire. Senate Bill 388 can assist Maryland's public schools in developing a comprehensive system for identifying and addressing the behavioral health needs of our students. We urge that this important legislation receive a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 388. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, 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