



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable April Miller

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 14, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1224 – *Public Schools – Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools – Parental Notice*

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC), and the Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC) we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1224.

House Bill 1224 requires a health care practitioner, who is employed by or under contract with a school-based health center, local health department, or local school system, to provide school health services at a public school and to provide the student's parent or guardian with information about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student.

Current law already addresses what health care services require parental consent and what services a minor is authorized to consent to if the practitioner determines that the minor has the capability to consent. It should be noted that a practitioner, who determines a minor is capable of consenting to care, retains the right to inform a parent or guardian if the practitioner believes it is in the best interest of the minor.

House Bill 1224 directly conflicts with existing minor consent authority and the related statutory framework. The bill would eliminate the rights and protections currently provided in Maryland's minor consent laws for school-based services, thereby undermining the health and well-being of students who may have few if any other options for the receipt of services except through a school-based health center or school-based health services. An unfavorable report is requested.