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SUPPORT HB1224

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Dear Madam Chair, Members of the Committee, and Delegate April Miller,

I **strongly support** HB1224 - Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice.

Parents have a fundamental right to direct their children's health care and must be informed of any health issues as well as any treatment their children receive regardless of the facility, including public school and public school-based health centers.

Parents must be informed of medical diagnoses and treatments administered to their children in public school settings and healthcare centers in order to partner with the student's primary healthcare providers and other support systems to address the diagnosis and any factors contributing to the student's health. Please help parents and children keep strong family connections!

Students who receive mental healthcare without parental notice in public school settings may be at increased risk of susceptibility to social contagion and/or may be at greater risk to receive off-label medical treatments which are not supported by adequate evidence.

Healthcare providers in a public school setting don't have access to children's full medical history.

Healthcare providers in a public school setting cannot fully assess the risks and benefits of medical treatments for children in schools and health centers. Parents/legal guardians must be informed.

Many thanks to Delegate April Miller for introducing this important bill.

Please **vote favorably** to protect our children and families.

Thank you,
Elena Urman
A resident of Montgomery County, MD