

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 266
Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports – Membership
– Alteration**

**House Ways and Means Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 266, which would alter the membership of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports to include a school counselor designated by the Maryland School Counselor Association.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, created by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, has a critical role in ensuring that students and their families can access to behavioral health supports. Members who have firsthand experience providing support in a school setting are vital to this effort. The Consortium currently includes school-based members appointed by the Maryland State Education Association, the Maryland School Psychologists Association, and the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

School counselors have unique insights into students' needs. As the Consortium determines the best approach to scaling behavioral health services and assessing priority areas, their voices should be heard.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 266.