



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 20, 2023

Bill: House Bill 593– Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment

Position: Support

Dear Chair Attearbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

We support House Bill 593 which would designate public schools who provide specific health and safety training as "Lifesaver Schools". To qualify, schools are required to offer evidence-based CPR and first aid training, a mental health wellness program or peer mentoring program, provide service hours for health and wellness activities, and resources available on the school website regarding physical and mental health. MSPA supports encouraging schools across the state of Maryland to prioritize physical and mental health, and the availability of mental health resources within the school building.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB593. If we can provide any further information or be of assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP
Committee Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association.