



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Dana Jones

FROM: Christine K. Krone
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DATE: March 1, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 878 – *Public Schools – Student Telehealth Appointments – Policy and Access*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 878.

House Bill 878 would require each county board of education to establish a policy to accommodate student telehealth appointments during the school day by requiring each public middle and high school to designate a space for student telehealth appointments.

The above-mentioned organizations support student access to telehealth appointments while in the school setting as it improves and expands a student's ability to access health care providers. The availability of school-based telehealth appointments removes transportation barriers associated with parent/guardians taking time off work to take the student to an in-person appointment. Out of convenience, some parents pull their child out of school for an entire day just to attend one in-person appointment. Providing the ability for a student to take a telehealth appointment at school improves attendance and minimizes missed classwork. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.