



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: 410-992-7732. www.marylandpsychology.org

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

Rebecca Resnick, PsyD,

President-elect

Brian Corrado, PsyD

Past President

Linda McGhee, PhD, JD

Secretary

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Treasurer

Melinda Capaldi, PsyD

Representatives-at-large

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representative to APA

Council Peter Smith, PsyD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, PhD

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas Cote, MBA, CAE

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate David Moon, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Rm 101
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 27, 2023

RE: Senate Bill 482– Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Mental Health Professionals in Public Schools

Position: Support

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

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, is writing to express **SUPPORT for Senate Bill 482**, which has the potential to increase access to critically important behavioral health services delivered to school children in Maryland.

Addressing the behavioral health needs of Maryland's school children is an essential role for our public schools – students perform better academically, and grow up to be better-functioning adults, when these needs are met along the way. School systems struggle to find enough qualified behavioral health professionals to meet the increasingly high demand for their services. Adding school psychologists to the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Program will enable more of these well-trained school-employed behavioral health professionals to be available to Maryland students. We strongly **SUPPORT** SB 482, and request that the bill receives a favorable report.

The Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Program is open to a wide variety of professionals employed in Maryland by a state agency, nonprofit, or local government serving high needs populations, including both low-income populations and high-needs geographic areas. Beyond our public schools, many of these other employers are also experiencing serious shortages of behavioral health staff, including psychologists. In order to expand citizen access to behavioral health services across the state, in the near future we would hope that the program can be expanded to include licensed psychologists.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 482. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs