



**Committee:** House Appropriations Committee

**Bill:** Senate Bill 165 – Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training

**Hearing Date:** March 20, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support *Senate Bill 165 – Education -Coaches – Mental Health Training*. The legislation would require public school systems to provide mental health training to coaches.

According to the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 13% of girls and 7% of boys have attempted suicide in the prior 12-months. These alarming rates reflect an overall trend of a higher prevalence of mental health issues in youth in all demographic categories.<sup>i</sup>

Maryland is embracing a multi-faceted strategy to address this crisis. LCPCM supports this legislation as an innovative way to reach youth with mental health issues. Coaches are in a unique position to interact with students outside the classroom. Students may confide in them, and this legislation would equip coaches with the skills to recognize potential mental health issues and make appropriate referrals.

We ask for a favorable report. If you need any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/YRBS\\_Data-Summary-Trends\\_Report2023\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/YRBS_Data-Summary-Trends_Report2023_508.pdf)