



**In Support
Senate Bill No. 165
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Senator Feldman, Committee Chair**

January 17, 2024- 3:00 pm

Senator Feldman, members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee. As a former NFL athlete, Senate Bill 165 is extremely important to me. I played for The Baltimore Ravens and I loved my time living in the great city of Baltimore. But, part of my time in Baltimore was dark, suicidal, depressing and I felt like I was all alone. I never was given any tools or knowledge on how to handle my mental health issues as a high school or college athlete, so when I became a professional athlete I struggled immensely with some really hard issues.

I believe Senate Bill 165 will better equip coaches when addressing their athletes' mental health. With early interventions like mental health first aid, more mental health awareness and support will be brought to athletics throughout Maryland so that young athletes don't end up almost taking their life, as I once did!

Sincerely,



Marques Ogden