



Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 13, 2024

Bill: Senate Bill 0571 – Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)

Position: Support

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

The Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA) - which represents about 500 Maryland school psychologists - is writing in **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 0571 – Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)**. SB 0571 will help ensure a safer internet environment for Maryland children. In addition, this bill will address how companies operating in Maryland collect, store, and use children's private personal data.

Online contributions to poorer mental health outcomes for children are at the forefront of parents' minds and are an ongoing issue in our public discourse. Even the best prepared families with the tightest controls on devices cannot truly control their children's content exposure and experiences under the current system. At present, Maryland's children encounter predators and content on social media platforms that negatively impact their mental health and neurodevelopment. Access to the internet brings such harmful forces into our homes through our devices. Social media companies have known of this problem, have ignored this problem, and can solve this problem. This bill is a first step in efforts to ensure Maryland children are safe and that their data are protected.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 0571. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Leposa, PHD NCSP
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association.

