

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

**2314 Benson Mill Road
Sparks, Maryland 21152**

March 13, 2024

FAVORABLE HB65

**Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers
and Public Schools - Parental Notice**

Madame Chair, Sponsors and HGO Committee Members,

I am Emily Tarsell, a long time Maryland citizen and a licensed mental health therapist. For many years, I worked with special needs children and families in school settings. I can say unequivocally that the best medical/psychological outcomes happen when one works with the family and the child. I therefore strongly support the addition of parental notice in this bill.

Clearly, no minor should receive any school-based health service without Parental/Legal guardian knowledge and Parental/Legal guardian consent. This bill just formalizes in writing the natural rights and authority of the Parent/Guardian to make decisions on behalf of their child. Parents/Guardians should be involved in any medical or psychological consultation, diagnosis or treatment of their child. Please pass HB65 with a Favorable vote.

Thank you.

Emily Tarsell, LCPC