

**UNFAVORABLE**

**House Bill 65**

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

**House Health and Government Operations Committee**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 65, which would require a school health practitioner, health care practitioner, or certified school psychologist employed by or under a contract with a school-based health center, local school system, or local health department to provide school health services at a public school to provide certain information to a certain student's parent or guardian about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Providers may already notify parents or guardians about their child's care. To that end, this bill is not necessary. The General Assembly has also determined that students of 12 years of age or older who are deemed capable of agreeing to care by a provider may do so, and that providers may exercise discretion in notifying parents as appropriate. This nuance is important, as in some cases, notification may place a child in harm's way.

We are concerned that eliminating that nuance could endanger or harm students who may be suffering abuse at home or who have family that does not support them accessing necessary mental health care. Educators, including school-based health providers, have a duty to act in the best interest of our students' safety and wellbeing. This bill would undermine existing law that was thoughtfully crafted by the General Assembly to balance notification and student safety.

**We urge the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 65.**