



Committee: Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 65 - Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice

Hearing Date: March 13, 2024

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) opposes *House Bill 65 - Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice*. The bill requires 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 to a student's parent or guardian information about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student.

Maryland law only allows for minors to consent to a narrow range of health services. A health care practitioner may already share information about such services with a parent if it is in the best interest of the minor. This legislation would require sharing all health information with parents, putting some children at risk at home. If this legislation is enacted, minors would likely forego some services, such as birth control or basic counseling.

This bill directly conflicts with existing minor consent authority, and we urge an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.