



Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 10, 2025

Bill: Senate Bill 0350 – Primary and Secondary Education – Educator Professional Development – Course on Student Well-Being and Flourishing

Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association, a professional organization representing about 500 Maryland school psychologists. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state. As a result, we support SB0350, which mandates the creation of a professional development program that educates school staff regarding the impact of those factors on students' school outcomes.

SB 0350 establishes an educational program that explains the importance of considering the wellbeing of the “whole student” to that individual's educational success. We hope that by gaining an understanding of factors important to student success that may be outside educators' control, school staff can gain empathy for students' experiences as well as an appreciation of the importance of ensuring successful implementation of social, emotional, and behavioral interventions students receive. Overall, gaining such an understanding might better prepare school staff to participate in interventions and supports aimed at addressing students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

MSPA therefore offers this written testimony in support of SB 0350. If we can provide any further information or be of any assistance, please 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.