



PO Box 368 Laurel, MD 20725

410-992-4258

www.marylandpsychology.org

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.

Past President

Brian Corrado, Psy.D.

Secretary

Meghan Mattos, Psy.D.

Treasurer

Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representatives-at-large

Rachel Singer, Ph.D.

Deborah Williams, Psy.D.

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, Psy.D.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, Ph.D.

Diversity

Mindy Milstein, Ph.D.

Early Career Psychologist

Alayna Berkowitz, Ph.D.

Educational Affairs

Sarah Crawley, Ph.D.

Ethics

LaShaun Williams, Psy.D.

Legislative

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Taylor Dickerson

February 10, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

2 East Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB0350- Primary and Secondary Education – Educator Professional Development – Course on Student Well-Being and Flourishing

Position: SUPPORT/SB0350

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

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to report FAVORABLY on SB0350. We support the intent of this bill, which is to provide primary and secondary educators to the importance of considering the well-being of the “whole” student to educational success. Providing educators with the opportunity to gain valuable information about a variety of factors that contribute to the ability of individual students to flourish while learning is long overdue. It has long been known that the factors outlined in this legislation are as important as the curriculum being taught to a student’s ability to absorb and utilize the academic information to which they are exposed in the classroom. Our hope is that by exposure to this information educators can better understand the factors that lead to academic success, many of which are beyond educator’s immediate control. By sensitizing educational staff to these factors and/or affirming what they might already know, we would hope that it would allow them to create flexible learning environments and accommodate students who are struggling in an increasingly complex world. We well know that creating empathetic relationships with those we serve is the key to affecting positive change in their behavior, which in this case is learning. We would hope that educational staff might be sensitized to issues affecting student behavior and learning that can be better addressed as a result of the insight a course of this nature might provide them.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB0350. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.

David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.

President

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs