

P.O. Box 5200 Salisbury, MD 21802-5200

February 4, 2025

RE: HB1395

Dear Ways and Means Committee:

We see so many declarations about mental health problems in schools. There's always a push to hire more social workers, counselors, and psychologists. No matter how many we hire, the issues seem to get worse. We never hear anything about having school chaplains as an option until now. It's time to try some different approaches. If legislators say that the community needs are diverse, then we should be inclusive of chaplains in our schools to optionally offer a different approach in the guidance of our students. To that end, the DPTC favorably supports HB1395 to have chaplains in our schools.

Darren Lombardo, Director Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition