



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 310 – Education – Youth Suicide Prevention School Program – Revisions – Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) is submitting this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 310 – Education – Youth Suicide Prevention School Program – Revisions.

SB 310 proposes critical updates to the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program by incorporating education on the connection between gambling addiction and youth suicide. This legislation represents a significant enhancement to existing mental health education efforts, addressing an emerging risk factor that contributes to youth mental health crises. By expanding the program to include awareness of gambling addiction, SB 310 ensures that students, families, and educators are better equipped to identify and respond to warning signs, fostering a comprehensive approach to youth suicide prevention.

This bill supports the Department’s mission to protect and improve the health and well-being of Maryland residents. It aligns with our efforts to mitigate behavioral health risks through early intervention, education, and increased access to resources. By focusing on an often-overlooked factor such as gambling addiction, SB 310 strengthens prevention initiatives and promotes equity in mental health education across Maryland schools.

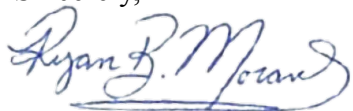
The Department applauds the forward-thinking approach of SB 310 and its potential to reduce youth suicide rates through targeted education and outreach. We are committed to supporting its successful implementation and ensuring that schools, educators, and mental health professionals have the resources needed to effectively integrate this expanded program.

While this bill provides essential updates to improve youth mental health outcomes, it is important to note the potential fiscal impact on the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for program implementation, particularly in training educators and staff. Adequate funding and support will be

critical to ensure that the training needs of school personnel are met without overburdening existing resources.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or 443-826-1851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary