

Dear distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for Maryland House Bill 457. As a mother, engaged citizen, and resident of District 16, I believe this legislation is essential for ensuring the well-being of our students and the effectiveness of our educators.

With nearly one in three high school students reporting persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, according to the CDC, addressing student mental health is more urgent than ever. The professional development course created by HB457 will provide essential instruction on understanding the eight dimensions of well-being as identified by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, while also helping educators reinforce fundamental principles of good citizenship among students.

By ensuring that school personnel receive this critical training, HB457 will empower educators with the knowledge and skills to support student well-being in a comprehensive manner. This legislation will help foster a healthier, more supportive learning environment for Maryland students, ultimately contributing to their long-term success.

I urge you to support HB457 and advocate for its passage during this legislative session. Your leadership on this issue will make a significant difference for Maryland's educators and students.

Sincerely,
Yvonne So