



MARYLAND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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February 6, 2026

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House Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 341 – Maryland Commission for Boys’ and Men’s Health – Establishment

Position: Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists across the state, writes in SUPPORT with an amendment of House Bill 341 – Maryland Commission for Boys’ and Men’s Health – Establishment. This legislation proposes the creation of a statewide commission within the Maryland Department of Health to examine health challenges affecting boys and men, including mental health disparities. The Commission would use health data to raise public awareness of conditions that disproportionately affect boys and men, identify strategies to reduce these disparities, and promote policies and programs that support equitable access to health care and improved health outcomes across the lifespan.

The American Psychological Association (APA) Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Boys and Men (2018) document higher rates of educational challenges, physical health problems, adverse mental health outcomes, and broader public health concerns among boys and men. These include disproportionate exposure to harsh school discipline and lower levels of educational attainment; elevated risk for cardiovascular disease; lower utilization of mental health services alongside higher suicide mortality; and increased rates of substance-related deaths, violence, and incarceration. These outcomes are particularly pronounced for boys and men from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and for individuals marginalized based on race, ethnicity, and cultural background (Williams, 2003).

A 2016 survey of state-level health resources for men and boys across all 50 states and Washington DC found that there were significantly fewer resources and information available for men compared to women through state public health agencies (Fadich et al., 2018). By creating a formal mechanism to focus on boys’ and men’s health, Maryland can better address gaps in prevention, access to care, and outcomes—particularly for populations experiencing compounded disadvantage.

To strengthen the Commission’s work, the Maryland Psychological Association respectfully recommends an amendment to specify the inclusion of one licensed psychologist, nominated by MPA, as a member of the Commission. Psychologists bring expertise in mental health, developmental trajectories, assessment, and health equity that would complement the Commission’s interdisciplinary approach and support evidence-informed decision-making.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 341, with the proposed amendment. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of MPA’s Legislative Committee, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
President

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs