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State Superintendent of Schools
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President, State Board of Education

TO: House Ways and Means Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

DATE: March 25, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Board of Education and the State Department of Education (MSDE) provide this letter of support regarding Senate Bill 238 – the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact, which would authorize Maryland’s entry into a multistate licensure compact for school psychologists. MSDE supports the goal of expanding access to qualified school psychologist services, a priority that aligns with the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, and appreciates the efforts to facilitate workforce mobility and enhance mental health supports for students.

Maryland’s current regulatory framework provides an efficient, low-cost pathway to extend reciprocity for out-of-state applicants. Under COMAR 13A.12.04.09, “Pathway 2” allows for the licensure of applicants from out-of-state approved programs that include a 1,200-hour internship and passing scores on a licensure test. This existing pathway already aligns with the criteria established in SB 238, and the Compact would serve as a valuable supplementary mechanism to further broaden the pool of qualified applicants.

To support Maryland’s participation in the Compact, MSDE must appoint a Commissioner to oversee day-to-day administrative duties as a member state, which include implementing Compact rules and regulations, managing interstate information-sharing systems, overseeing complaint intake and investigations, and administering licensure processes in coordination with other member states. Participation in the Compact will also require additional expenditures, including an annual Compact fee (estimated at \$7,000-\$10,000) and a one-time investment to enhance the State’s educator licensure system to support equivalent licensure for Compact members. This represents an additional investment of Departmental resources to ensure the Compact is implemented effectively and strengthens the State’s ability to attract qualified school psychologists and support LEAs.

MSDE remains dedicated to expanding access to mental health care in schools and students’ communities. The Compact represents a meaningful opportunity to attract additional school psychologists to Maryland and to strengthen the State’s broader mental health workforce. MSDE looks forward to continued partnership with the General Assembly and LEAs to increase the number of mental health professionals serving our schools and neighborhoods.

The Department stands ready to provide additional information or technical assistance as **SB 238** is considered. Please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov or at 443-571-5461, for additional information.