

# MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



January 30, 2026

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The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
Ways & Means Committee  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support: House Bill 468: Health and Taxation - Digital Social Media Services and the Mental Health Care Fund for Children and Youth

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1200 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS and WPS strongly support HB468. The establishment of the Mental Health Care Fund for Children and Youth, financed through a tax on select digital social media services, represents a significant stride towards guaranteeing access to vital mental health care services for children and youth. The prevalence of mental health issues among this demographic has escalated to concerning levels, exacerbated by factors like social media engagement, cyberbullying, and the stressors of contemporary living. By instituting a dedicated fund, Maryland would signal its commitment to prioritizing the mental well-being of our future generation, ensuring they receive the necessary support and care to flourish.

For these reasons, we support HB 468. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at [lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee