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PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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February 10, 2026

Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Delegate Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 468 – Health and Taxation – Digital Social Media Services and the Mental Health Care Fund for Children and Youth

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Ways and Means Committee to **report favorably on HB 468**.

House Bill 468 establishes the Mental Health Care Fund for Children and Youth and creates a dedicated, sustainable funding stream to improve access to mental health services for Maryland’s children and adolescents. At a time when youth mental health needs are rising sharply, HB 468 responds with a targeted, forward-looking solution that aligns revenue generation with an urgent public-health priority.

HB 468 thoughtfully directs revenues from a digital social media gross revenues tax toward expanding access to mental health care for children and youth. HB 468 also ensures fiscal transparency, accountability, and supplementation of existing funding. The bill provides a stable mechanism to support prevention, early intervention, and treatment services without diverting resources from other essential programs by creating a special, nonlapsing fund administered by the Maryland Department of Health and subject to the State budget process.

This legislation reflects a growing recognition of the relationship between digital environments and youth mental health. It also places responsibility and accountability on large, highly profitable platforms to contribute to addressing the downstream public health impacts. HB 468 represents a balanced and responsible approach to funding children’s mental health services and will help Maryland better meet the needs of families, schools, and communities statewide.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 468**. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA’s Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D. 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