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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2026

To: Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair

Delegate Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair

Ways and Means Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express its support for **HB 800 – Education – Behavioral Health and Student Well-Being and Human Flourishing (Maryland Student Well-Being and Flourishing Act)**.

HB 800 strengthens the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by advancing its core goal of building a stronger educational system that supports the whole child. The bill modernizes the Blueprint's behavioral health framework by incorporating trauma-informed prevention and intervention strategies for students experiencing co-occurring emotional, psychological, and physical health challenges, including mental health and substance use disorders.

Importantly, HB 800 expands the understanding of behavioral health to include **student well-being and human flourishing** as essential components of academic success. The legislation identifies eight interconnected factors that influence student well-being: social, environmental, physical, emotional, spiritual, occupational, intellectual, and financial. By recognizing these dimensions, the bill ensures that student support systems account for the full context of a student's life and experiences.

HB 800 acknowledges that a student's environment directly impacts educational outcomes, quality of life, and long-term stability. Students facing financial insecurity may require access to basic resources such as school supplies, while those exposed to community violence may need targeted mental health support. By requiring schools to consider the conditions shaping a student's daily life, HB 800 ensures that behavioral health interventions are responsive, individualized, and effective.

To meet these needs, the bill requires trained and certified school personnel to identify concerns related to student well-being and intervene appropriately. It also strengthens community-based partnerships, including coordination through the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Support, fostering a comprehensive network that promotes student resilience and success.

HB 800 empowers schools, families, and communities to work together in supporting Maryland's students and building healthier, more resilient communities statewide.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a **favorable report** on HB 800.