



February 5, 2020

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee
Maryland General Assembly
6 Bladen Street, Room 131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Madam Chair & Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Association of Local Management Boards is offering testimony in **support of HB277: State Department of Education – Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach**, which would create a trauma-informed schools initiative within the Maryland State Department of Education to expand the use of a trauma-informed approach in schools, intensively train schools on becoming trauma-informed, develop guidelines to assist schools, and create a fund to carry out this work.

Expanding how we integrate a trauma-informed approach within our education system is critical to successful social and emotional development of Maryland's youth. According to the Treatment and Services Adaptation Center, one out of every four children attending school has been exposed to a traumatic event that can affect learning and/or behavior. Equipping schools and educators with the tools to address learning and behavior challenges through a trauma-informed lens will play an important component to ensuring equitable outcomes for all of Maryland's youth. In addition, establishing guidelines, training educators and providing support to schools for implementation are key for sustainable implementation across the state.

The Maryland Association of Local Management Boards works hard to support and express the needs of the 24 Local Management Boards statewide. Local Management Boards are charged with identifying priorities and targeting resources for their jurisdiction's communities. The Boards serve as the coordinator of collaboration for child and family services. They bring together local child-serving agencies, local childcare providers, clients of services, families, and other community representatives to empower local stakeholders in addressing the needs of and setting priorities for their communities. There is a Local Management Board in each County and in Baltimore City.

Our work as Maryland's Local Management Boards is guided by the State's 8 Child Well-being Results Areas, which includes children are successful in school.¹ We work to ensure all children and youth have what they need to succeed in school and graduate prepared for college and

¹ Maryland Governor's Office for Children. "Maryland's Child Well-Being Scorecard." <https://goc.maryland.gov/reportcard/>



career. Taking a trauma-informed approach to the education of our children and youth is an important step. Please do all that you can to make sure that HB 277 passes in Committee and becomes Maryland law.

Sincerely,

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