



Delegate Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Delegate Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: Senate Bill 438 – Public Schools-Pregnant and Parenting Students-Policies and Reports**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

School psychologists provide comprehensive services to Maryland's students. We work closely with families, teachers, nurses and health techs, and community providers to support students' continuous to access to education while pregnant or parenting. Despite motivation to achieve academic goals, pregnant and parenting students are often stigmatized in schools. They face other barriers including financial challenges and access to childcare. The policies proposed in Senate Bill 438 are crucial to improving outcomes for these vulnerable students. The bill would provide necessary accommodations for these students, such as private locations to nurse or pump. In addition, the bill requires the creation of model policies for schools to better support students navigating parenthood in order to achieve more successful outcomes. MSPA supports this bill as a means of creating a consistent and systematic method of supporting these students, who are less likely to obtain a high school diploma and are more at-risk of experiencing long-term adverse outcomes as compared to their peers.

MSPA is in strong support of Senate Bill 438 and we respectfully urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at [legislative@mSPAonline.org](mailto:legislative@mSPAonline.org), or Rachael Faulkner at [rfaulkner@policypartners.net](mailto:rfaulkner@policypartners.net) or (410) 693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Potter, Ph.D., NCSP  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Maryland School Psychologists' Association