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Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 377
Title: Commission on Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment
Hearing Date: April 6, 2021
Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 377 – Commission on Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment*. This bill would establish a commission within the Behavioral Health Administration to study, evaluate, and revise guidelines for student behavioral health and mental health treatment and practice.

There are currently 86 school-based health centers in Maryland providing a combination of primary care, behavioral health, and oral health services to students. Approximately, one-third of centers currently provide behavioral health services to students.

Through the work of school-based health centers, health providers routinely interact with members of pupil personnel teams, particularly as school staff identify and refer students to school-based health centers for services, including behavioral health. Having a further understanding of what each of these team members roles and functions are is critical for community partners, including school-based health centers, who work in schools aside these professionals.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartner.net or (410) 693-4000.