



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 470-Institute for Innovation and Implementation – Pregnant, Expecting, and Parenting Students – Data Collection and Report

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 who are experiencing challenges that impact their engagement in school, including students who are pregnant and parenting. Currently, many school districts in Maryland lack specific programs aimed at increasing positive outcomes for pregnant and parenting students. These students face socio-economic challenges stigma, which impede their ability to continue to access appropriate education while pregnant and parenting. SB470 provides a clear pathway for the Institute for Innovation and Implementation in the UMD School of Social Work to provide meaningful recommendations to the General Assembly to inform legislation and policy to benefit these students and fill a gap in many districts' support services.

MSPA is in strong support of Senate Bill 470 and we respectfully urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org, or our policy consultant, Rachael Faulkner, at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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