



Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: House Bill 915 – Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, 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.

MSPA and our national affiliate organization, the National Association of School Psychologists, has been prioritizing recruiting individuals from underrepresented populations for some time. These efforts include working towards expanding current school psychology graduate programs across the state, but especially in our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are listed in the bill. Currently, Bowie State University has a school psychology graduate program, which has limited capacity because of funding; none of the other HBCUs in Maryland do. We are encouraged to see this important legislation in the Maryland House of Delegates as this issue is very important for the wellbeing of the individuals who seek mental health treatment and the success of that treatment in both community- and school-based settings.

MSPA supports HB 915 and we urge a favorable report. 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