



Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: Senate Bill 98 – County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools – Discrimination - Prohibition**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, 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.

The purpose of this letter is to share our support for Senate Bill 98, which would prohibit discrimination against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. This legislation would also protect individuals from being denied enrollment or from retaliation after filing a complaint alleging discrimination. Importantly, the language in the bill provides exceptions for religiously-affiliated institutions and schools with single-sex enrollment.

While the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has published guidance on anti-discrimination protections, these protections are not currently guaranteed by law. We feel that it is important that such protections are codified into state law. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 98.

Respectfully submitted,

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