



Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 254

Title: Consumer Protection – Social Media Regulation and Safety for Children

Hearing Date: February 22, 2023

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 254 - Consumer Protection – Social Media Regulation and Safety for Children*. This bill prevents minors under the age of 13 from having certain types social media accounts unless the account is joint with a parent. The bill also creates a Digital Citizenship Fund to assist county school boards with investing in programs and curriculum to teach students safe and responsible internet usage.

This bill will help shield children from the harmful affects of cyberbullying. According to data from the Cyberbullying Research Center, on average, about 29% of the students have reported being the victim of cyberbullying at some point in their lifetime and has been steadily increasing over the past give years.ⁱ LCPCM supports this bill to help protect the mental health of Maryland youth.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://cyberbullying.org/summary-of-our-cyberbullying-research>