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March 10, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 1224 – Public Schools – Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools – Parental Notice

Dear Delegates,

We support and respectfully request that you vote for it.

We believe that parents need to play the primary role in decisions around the health of their children. This bill would ensure that parents are notified of interactions, at their school, with a health or mental health practitioner which provides a transparency of care that is essential between parent and child.

Other points as to why this bill is favorable are:

Parents have a fundamental right to direct their children's health care and must be informed of health issues their children are diagnosed with at school as well as any treatment their children receive while in public school and public school-based health centers.

Healthcare providers in a public school setting don't have access to students' full medical history and cannot fully assess the relative risks and benefits of medical interventions for pediatric patients in schools and health centers without notifying and conferring with parents.

Parents must be informed of medical diagnoses and treatments administered to their children in public school settings and healthcare centers in order to partner with the student's primary healthcare providers and other support systems to address the diagnosis and any factors contributing to the student's health.

Students who receive mental healthcare without parental notice in public school settings may be at increased risk of susceptibility to [social contagion](#) and/or may be at greater risk to receive off-label medical treatments which are [not supported by adequate evidence](#).

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers