



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

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The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 29th, 2020

Dear Mr. Chair and Ranking Member,

On behalf of the more than 24,000 members of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), we know firsthand that both schools and communities play a vital and irreplaceable role in collaborating to support students' mental health. School psychologists regularly work with students and families who have experienced adversity, stress, and trauma, and see the substantial impacts of those experiences in their daily lives and learning. As schools across the country prepare to re-open their doors in at least some capacity for students to return in the fall, it is essential to understand that children and youth do not leave mental health issues at the classroom door. In light of the serious and traumatic national events that have occurred this year, which will impact the psycho-social development of students for years to come, serious steps must be taken to address the growing and looming mental health crisis in our country.

We support and encourage passage of H.R. 3539, the "Behavioral Health Intervention Guidelines Act of 2019 (BIG Act)." which will identify and publish important best practices for behavioral intervention teams in schools. If approved, this legislation would allow for guidance that ensures teams have trained and diverse stakeholders, while also protecting the privacy and civil rights of students.

If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact Kelly Vaillancourt-Strobach at kvaillancourt@naspweb.org.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Minke, PhD, NCSP
Executive Director
National Association of School Psychologists