



March 12, 2014

Delegate Sheila E. Hixson, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Hixson,

The Association of Community Services of Howard County (ACS) representing over 100 human services providers and community advocates serving over 100,000 Howard County residents annually supports **HB 1428 – Student Health and Fitness Act**.

We urge your support of this bill that would require that elementary school students be provided a program of physical activity totaling at least 150 minutes of physical activity each week, including at least 90 minutes of physical education. As research has consistently established, active and healthy students achieve higher academic success. Passage of SB 964 would provide important state support for Howard County's and other local jurisdictions' initiatives targeted at improving the health, well-being and academic performance of our young residents.

Please contact me if you require further information. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Joan Driessen  
Joan Driessen  
Executive Director  
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Cc: Delegate Frank S. Turner, Vice Chair  
Delegate Jay Walker, HB 1428 Sponsor