

~~WHEREAS, Active Minds, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity headquartered in Washington, D.C., offers mental health awareness, education, and advocacy programs run by students; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The mission of Active Minds, Inc. is to utilize peer outreach to increase students' awareness of mental health issues, provide information and resources regarding mental health and mental illness, encourage students to seek help as soon as it is needed, and serve as a liaison between students and the mental health community; and~~

WHEREAS, Under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, the United States Congress authorized \$82 million to states, Indian tribes, and colleges and universities for the development of youth suicide prevention programs; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Education**

7-504.

(a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations that set eligibility guidelines for State funding of Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs under this subtitle.

(2) The regulations shall:

(i) Establish procedures for developing local programs, in cooperation with local education agencies, youth service bureaus, and community mental health centers; and

(ii) Establish standards and policies for programs to offer:

1. Individual, family, and group counseling related to youth suicide prevention;

2. Referral, crisis intervention, and information for students, parents, and school personnel; and

3. Training for school personnel, and others responsible for counseling or supervising student activities.

(b) A Youth Suicide Prevention School Program established under this subtitle shall plan, fund, and implement educational programs, which may include any of the following:

(1) Classroom instruction designed to achieve any of the following objectives:

(i) Encourage sound decision making and promote ethical development;

(ii) Increase pupils' awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and youth suicide;