



Renee Spence, Executive Director  
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD. 21228  
410-925-2183  
[pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com)

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BILL: Senate Bill 657  
TITLE: Public Schools – Wellness Policy – School Meals  
DATE: March 8, 2017  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM  
Email: [pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com); Cell: 410-925-2183

Senate Bill 657 requires county boards of education to add to a specified wellness plan on or before August 1, 2018, a specified plan for reducing students' added sugar intake per school meal based on recommendations from the United States Department of Agriculture.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 657 and the sponsors' concern for the health and wellness of students. However, we respectfully **OPPOSE** the bill.

Local school systems understand the importance of and implementation of wellness policies and much has been happening at the federal, state, local, and school level on this issue. Current laws already ensure that all beverages and foods that are offered to students meet the food and nutrition standards required at all levels. For example, local school systems must comply with federal law and regulations through the federal food and nutrition programs, including but not limited to, the National School Lunch Program, and the School Breakfast Program for students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and free milk. The federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires schools to offer nutritious, well balanced, and age-appropriate meals to all children. The Maryland State Department of Education works collaboratively with local school systems and monitors compliance.

In addition, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted the Maryland Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in Schools which was effective July 1, 2014. The standards require that all food and beverages sold to students on the school campus, including cafeteria a la carte items, vending machines, school stores, and fundraising activities must meet very stringent nutrition standards.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM respectfully **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 657.