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**Sherri Newsome**  
**State Board of Education**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 15, 2023**

My name is Sherri Newsome I'm a ward 8 resident and my son goes to Thurgood Marshall Academy PCHS. My son was diagnosed with a mental illness upon our move here from NC to DC in 2014. As a transplant it was extremely difficult to circumvent the programs and resources to receive him adequate assistance. My son now has a IEP, but finding resources and supports continues to be a challenge.

As a PAVE parent leader. I have been supported by PAVE and provided with various resources to assist me and my son. It would also be beneficial to have adequate mental health staff at his school to assist my son as needed beyond the current supports.

As a resident services coordinator, I see first hand the impact and challenges children and parents endure, with mental health. Please allow our kids to have a fair shot in developing a well rounded mental health. A well rounded mental health is vital to us all. Especially when shaping young minds to prepare for adulthood. SBMH offers our children the opportunity to develop not only a well rounded mental health but would also cultivate other benefits such as emotional intelligence and self advocacy.

Thank you for your time today!