



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Lorig Charkoudian

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: February 14, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 82 – *Maryland Medical Assistance and Children’s Health Insurance Programs – School-Based Behavioral Health Services – Reimbursement*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 82.

House Bill 82 provides a mechanism to advance the well-recognized need for enhancing the identification of behavioral health needs of Maryland’s children and youth as well as providing access to needed services. House Bill 82 requires the State to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a State plan amendment that will authorize the State to provide reimbursement for medically necessary behavioral health services provided in a school setting to all individuals enrolled in Medicaid or the Maryland Children’s Health Program regardless of whether the services were under an IEP or an individualized family service plan.

Reimbursement shall be provided when services are provided by a mental health provider working within their scope of practice. Further, the Maryland Department of Health is required to provide regular training and technical assistance to local educational agencies and mental health professionals working in a school setting on program enrollment, billing, documentation, and other topics related to compliance and quality assurance. Passage of House Bill 82 can be an effective enhancement of access to behavioral health services for many of Maryland’s youth. A favorable report is requested.