

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 5-20

INTRODUCED BY: IDEA Task Force

SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Reform

1  
2 Whereas, a complex relationship exists among behavioral health, the social determinants of  
3 health, and inequities and biases in the delivery of healthcare; and  
4  
5 Whereas, Maryland’s behavioral healthcare system is fragmented, underfunded and short on  
6 facilities and providers<sup>1,2</sup>; and  
7  
8 Whereas, there is a shortage of inpatient behavioral health beds in Maryland; and  
9  
10 Whereas, improved funding for behavioral health facilities and providers would lead to overall  
11 cost savings, decreased homelessness, and improved quality of life for those afflicted with  
12 mental health disorders; and  
13  
14 Whereas, there are many unrealized, well-formulated recommendations for improvement in our  
15 behavioral health system from multiple engaged entities; and  
16  
17 Whereas, the recent pandemic has exposed the lack of surge capacity in statewide behavioral  
18 health treatment; therefore be it  
19  
20 Resolved, that MedChi advocate for comprehensive behavioral health reform that addresses  
21 current system deficiencies and study the feasibility of the creation of additional large  
22 comprehensive behavioral health facilities in the State of Maryland.  
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25 Fiscal Note: Included in existing legislative advocacy budget.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mhamd.org/news/2020-milliman-press-release/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NAHPC/3d988744-80e1-414b-8881-aa2c98621788/UploadedImages/Health\\_Equity\\_Demands\\_Improved\\_Access\\_and\\_Better\\_Treatment\\_FINAL.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NAHPC/3d988744-80e1-414b-8881-aa2c98621788/UploadedImages/Health_Equity_Demands_Improved_Access_and_Better_Treatment_FINAL.pdf)