



Committee: House Appropriations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 152
Title: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2020
Hearing Date: February 27, 2020
Position: Oppose

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) opposes *House Bill 152 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act*. This bill would reduce the FY 2021 reimbursement rate for behavioral health providers under the Public Behavioral Health System from 4% to 2%.

It is imperative that the behavioral health provider community have financial predictability to meet the needs in our communities. We believed that there would be a consistent process for adjusting annual rates for behavioral health providers when the legislature passed the Keep the Door Open Act in 2017, followed by minimum wage legislation last year. By having a consistent rate process, the Public Behavioral Health System should experience a more stable workforce and improved outcomes for consumers. This is due, in part, to an anticipated increase in behavioral health practitioners who may decide to accept Medicaid patients or a position with a behavioral health provider.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.