

## Support

## SB 124 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Establishment of a State-Based Health Insurance Subsidies Program

Seate Finance Committee February 5, 2020

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports SB 124 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Establishment of a State-Based Health Insurance Subsidies Program. This bill requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to establish and implement a program to reduce the amount individuals pay for health benefit plans in the individual health insurance market.

Marylanders across the state continue to experience too many barriers in accessing behavioral health services. In addition to there not being enough behavioral health providers overall, many individuals experience difficulties paying premiums, which prevents them from seeking needed treatment.

LCPCM is very supportive of establishing this new program to assist individuals in covering the cost of behavioral health services. If we can provide any further information, please contact our legislative representative, Rachael Faulkner, at (410) 693-4000 or <a href="mailto:rfaulkner@policypartners.net">rfaulkner@policypartners.net</a>.