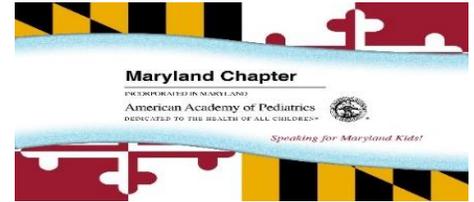




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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 18, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 453 – *Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 453.

Senate Bill 453 requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of the specific services available to a child in the State who has a mental disorder in each of the following categories: (1) psychiatric rehabilitation services; (2) therapeutic services; (3) care coordination services; and (4) home health aide services. The list must include services available to any child who has a mental disorder and who is enrolled in Medicaid or has health insurance coverage. BHA must establish a method by which a person may request the list through the BHA website and make the list available either through that method or through any other means.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “[m]ental disorders among children are described as serious changes in the way children typically learn, behave, or handle their emotions, which cause distress and problems getting through the day.”¹ Among the more common mental disorders that can be diagnosed in childhood are anxiety, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), among others. Though BHA maintains a list of licensed providers and the services they provide, it does not track whether the provider is enrolled in Medicaid or accepts commercial health insurance. Childhood mental disorders can be treated and managed and parents should take advantage of all the resources available to guide their child towards success. Part of taking advantage of these resources, however, is having easily accessible information on available service as well as Medicaid and health insurance coverage.

As such, MedChi and MDAAP urge the Senate Finance Committee to give Senate Bill 453 a favorable report.

For more information call:

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Children’s Mental Health, <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/basics.html>.