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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
 Members, Senate Finance Committee
 The Honorable Steven S. Hershey, Jr.

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

DATE: February 19, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 502 – *Health Insurance – Telehealth – Delivery of Mental Health Services – Coverage for Home Settings*

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 with amendment** for Senate Bill 502. Senate Bill 502 requires Medicaid to provide mental health services appropriately delivered through telehealth to a patient in the patient’s home setting. The bill also expands the definition of “telehealth” for purposes of private insurance coverage to include the delivery of mental health care services to a patient in the patient’s home.

Given access issues to mental health services, especially in Maryland’s rural areas, this bill will allow more individuals to receive necessary services. More importantly, for those individuals who have transportation issues or difficulty leaving home, this bill will enable them to receive treatment. In addition to mental health services, we would suggest that substance use disorder services also be included in the bill. With this change, we would urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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