

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)**Subject: Fwd: Written and oral testimony****From: kim jones-fearing <kimjonesfearing@me.com>****Date: Mon, Mar 09, 2020 9:46 pm****To: Theo Tuggle <theo@avalonfieldservices.com>**

Please put this on a document and Put it on a flash drive using the file name (4 lines down). I still need to do some edits. Please do it ASAP. Tonight.

Kim Jones-Fearing, MD LLC
10320 Little Patuxent Pkwy suite 200
Columbia, MD 21044
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: kim jones-fearing <kimjonesfearing@me.com>
Date: March 8, 2020 at 11:01:31 PM EDT
To: Theo Tuggle <theo@avalonfieldservices.com>
Subject: **Written and oral testimony**

HB 1461

Individual: Kim Jones-Fearing, MD DFAPA LLC
Position of Individual: Support
File name : HB1461_individual_Jonesfearing.pdf
HGO committee

The purpose of HB 1461 is to correct the law passed in 2019 which made it possible for Nurse practitioners to become medical directors of outpatient mental health clinics.

My concerns with last years legislation are as follows:

1. the purpose Last years law was to correct a severe shortage of psychiatrists in Maryland. However, the statistics do not support that. In fact, the state of Maryland is 10th in the United States regarding the number of psychiatrists per capita and overall.
2. The so called shortage of psychiatrists is really an artificially created shortage related to the effect of several factors such as the lack of enforcement of federal mental health parity, inaccurate listings of providers on insurance panels and other business of medicine factors . These facts can be referenced in the Millman report dated 2017.
3. Psychiatric Patients referred to outpatient mental health clinics tend to be complex with multiple medical and substance use related comorbidities including hormone disorders , sleep apnea , surreptitious opioid abuse, and other conditions that masquerade as mental illness. These patients are among the most vulnerable and complex to treat in the state.
4. There have been unintended consequences since this law was passed last year. Nurse Practitioners in training have had more difficulty locating preceptors due in my opinion to the contentious relationship created by this legislation. Several psychiatrists that I am aware of have lost jobs to be replaced by NP.
5. NP are an important part of a team delivering integrated care. However, integrated care is not the same as interchangeable care. Interchangeable care creates a 2 tiered system. One for underserved and public insurance and one for privileged patients with private insurance and resources.

In closing , I have been enjoying my work as a psychiatrist doing telemedicine in 4 counties 2 of which are rural and underserved. My Psychiatrist colleagues who also love working with these populations and would be interested in doing coverage in Eastern Shore have developed a list which we would be happy to make available to you upon request.

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