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Support with Amendment

House Bill 517 – Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care - Establishment

Health and Government Operations Committee

February 20, 2022

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports House Bill 517 – Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care - Establishment. This bill creates a program to assist patients in using their insurance to access behavioral health services.

As providers we have seen firsthand the difficulties individuals face in navigating the insurance process. Insurance issues can result in delaying important care. Although many providers will attempt to help their patients figure out their insurance, it would be helpful to have a program where patients can be referred for expert assistance. This program will increase access to behavioral health services by ensuring that all patients are able to use their insurance.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or (443) 350-1325.