



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 293 – Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund

Hearing Date: February 2, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 293 - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund*. We are a network of federally qualified health care providers across Maryland, and our mission is to provide health care services, including behavioral health, to people who are underserved.

This bill creates a special fund to support the implementation of the 9-8-8 system. 9-8-8 will support people with behavioral health needs by making it easier for them to reach out for support. The system, similar to 2-1-1, will connect them with organizations and resources in their communities.

Federal funds will likely be available for 9-8-8 implementation. With the creating of a special fund under this legislation, Maryland will be more competitive to obtain these funds.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.