



*Maryland Association of*  
**LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS**

January 31, 2022

**Senate Finance Committee**

**SUPPORT HB 0293 - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund**

Dear Delegates

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of House Bill 293, Behavioral Health Crisis Services that establishes a 9-8-8 universal telephone number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland have noted a major increase in the need for mental health services. This phone line would help coordinate care and divert crisis calls related to mental health to appropriate service providers.

The CDC has already noted that youth mental health is at crisis proportions. The new proposed phone line may be particularly helpful as our young people navigate through the extra stress created by living for two years in a global pandemic. Given the mental health shortages across the state it is crucial that we coordinate services and services providers.

We urge you to support HB 293 to establish a statewide mental health crisis hot line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P M Brown".

Pamela M. Brown, PhD  
Legislative Chair  
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards