



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 293

**Title:** Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund

**Hearing Date:** February 2, 2022

**Position:** Support

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The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 293 – Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund*. This bill creates a trust fund to support the implementation of 9-8-8.

When fully implemented, the 9-8-8 system will allow Marylanders to access crisis services by using an easy-to-remember three-digit number. This system will reduce the burden on the 9-1-1 system and will also more quickly connect people to crisis services instead of more generalized emergency services. In order for the 9-8-8 system to be effective, there will need to be an ongoing commitment to supporting crisis services in the state. Creating a 9-8-8 trust fund is an important first step in developing a robust crisis response system in the state. This trust fund will also help facilitate the state receiving federal funds to support 9-8-8 implementation.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 293 in order to help modernize our state's emergency petition process. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at [stiffin@policypartners.net](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net).