



Committee: Ways and Means Committee

Bill: House Bill 513 – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program - Established

Hearing Date: February 17, 2022

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 513 – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program - Established*.

LCPCM supports the creation of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program because it will help identify children in need of behavioral health services. Many childhood behavioral needs are not identified until a child enrolls in school. By identifying children in need of services before they reach school age, this program will connect children and families to support as soon as possible, improving outcomes. Additionally, we appreciate that this bill includes supports for parents of children with behavioral health needs. Raising a child with behavioral health needs can often be challenging, and it is important that parents have support.

We have several suggested amendments that will support the Commission’s work in examining behavioral health shortages. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or (443) 350-1325.