

Written Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
Submitted by Heather Johnson
SB 201 - Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs -
School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement
February 7, 2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Griffith and members of the Committee. My name is Heather Johnson, and I am a Parent, and a member of Baltimore AROS, the Alliance to Reclaim our Schools. I ask for a favorable report for SB201.

In 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [guidance](#) to state Medicaid directors that clarified which services can be reimbursed by Medicaid in a school-based setting. This guidance allows school districts to expand their school-based Medicaid programs to cover more students and bring in additional federal funding. Unfortunately, [Maryland state law](#) limits school districts to billing only for school health services included in a student's IEP. Our Maryland state medicaid plan explicitly prohibits reimbursement for school health-related services that are not included on a child's IEP/IFSP.

Maryland lawmakers should adopt SB201 legislation to reflect the latest CMS guidance so school districts can draw down additional Medicaid funding for school health services to expand access to school-based health services.

I have a child who does not have an IEP but they need speech therapy. This would help if they are offered these services in school. Members of the committee, too many students who need help are being left behind. Maryland is leaving federal dollars on the table. This legislation will offer the opportunity for more students to receive needed outside services.

Again I ask for a favorable report on SB 201. Thank you.

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