



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Katie Fry Hester

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DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 201 – *Maryland Medical Assistance and Children’s Health Insurance Programs – School-Based Behavioral Health Services – Reimbursement*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 201.

Senate Bill 201 provides a mechanism to advance the well-recognized need for enhancing the identification of behavioral health needs of Maryland’s children and youth as well as providing access to needed services. Senate Bill 201 requires the State to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a State plan amendment that will authorize the State to provide reimbursement for medically necessary behavioral health services provided in a school setting to all individuals enrolled in Medicaid or the Maryland Children’s Health Program regardless of whether the services were under an IEP or an individualized family service plan.

Reimbursement shall be provided when services are provided by a mental health provider working within their scope of practice. Further, the Maryland Department of Health is required to provide regular training and technical assistance to local educational agencies and mental health professionals working in a school setting on program enrollment, billing, documentation, and other topics related to compliance and quality assurance. Passage of Senate Bill 201 can be an effective enhancement of access to behavioral health services for many of Maryland’s youth. A favorable report is requested.