

SB201- Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services – Reimbursement

Finance Committee

February 7, 2023

Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and supporting their families.

SB201 would require on or before December 1, 2023, the Maryland Department of Health to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a State plan amendment, authorizing reimbursement of behavioral health services when provided in a school setting without regard to whether the services are provided under an individualized education program or an individualized family service plan. These services would be provided by certain health care providers under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program or the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program

We support SB201 as this change would ensure that children, who have a need for certain services and supports in school, may receive them without the child, family and school needing to create certain plans ahead of time for situations that may be emergent, short term or evolving. This will help schools keep qualified professionals on staff and provide a mechanism through which Medicaid reimbursement for services is allowed.

We believe this bill is part of a package of measures that would strengthen our support networks, and community behavioral health capacity to ensure children have access to the community-based behavioral supports they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Ande Kolp

Executive Director

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