



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the House HGO Committee

Chair: Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

January 30, 2023

House Bill 48: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of House Bill 48, Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion.

MRHA believes that Medicaid reimbursement of behavioral health services via the collaborative care model services will greatly benefit Maryland residents. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, more than half the people in Maryland with mental illness did not receive any treatment.ⁱ By requiring Medicaid reimbursement, more people in need of mental health services will have access through a collaborative care model. The collaborative care model has been continuously proven to improve quality of care, patient outcomes, and patient safety.ⁱⁱ No one should be denied such effective services.

Without Medicaid reimbursement, the approximately 1.5 million Marylanders enrolled in Medicaid will continue to be denied critical and effective mental health services. With this fact in mind, we urge you to support HB48.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director

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