



**Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)**

To the House Health and Government Operation Committee

Chair: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk

February 2, 2023

***House Bill 271: 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding***

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3, 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding.

MRHA believes that all Marylanders, including those 1.8 million living in rural Maryland communities, deserve equitable, timely, and effective mental health and substance use care, including help in times of crisis. Funding will help promote existing and new behavioral health services in high need across Maryland.

*Sincerely,*

*Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director*

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