

TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 21, 2023

RE: HB322: Public Health - Home- and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth

Johns Hopkins is pleased to support **HB322 Public Health – Home – Community Based Services for Children and Youth**. This bill expands reimbursement for wraparound services delivered to children and youth under the 1915(i) model or mental health case management program.

Johns Hopkins has a long history of, and a substantial commitment to, providing behavioral health services to Marylanders throughout the State. Our nationally ranked department of psychiatry treats a higher percentage of medically compromised psychiatric patients than any other hospital in Maryland. Our Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Institute for Brain Protection Services Center for Behavioral Health are devoted to meeting the behavioral health needs of our young patients through a multidisciplinary approach to the assessment, treatment, and study of pediatric mental disorders.

Wraparound care provides children and youth with collaborative, family-driven services and supports to address complex behavioral health needs. When provided with this model of care, children and youth are more likely to stay in their homes and communities while receiving services for their behavioral needs.

As this committee is well aware, there is a hospital bed capacity crisis in Maryland. Accordingly, investing in community-based services, such as these, provides a reasonable alternative for treatment and care for these complex patients. This model has the potential to create a solution that limits extensive hospitalizations, reduces costs to the State, and mitigates the growing need for out-of-home placements for children.

HB322 has the potential to significantly increase the availability of comprehensive behavioral health services for children and youth in Maryland, while simultaneously benefitting hospitals and the State. Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **HB322**.