



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill:** Senate Bill 876 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Limited Behavioral Health Services

**Hearing Date:** March 12, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 876 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Limited Behavioral Health Services*. The bill allows a patient under the age of 18 years old who is enrolled in Maryland’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to receive evaluation and treatment planning, family therapy, group therapy, individual therapy, and services related to prevention, education, or outreach without that individual having a behavioral health diagnosis.

LCPCM supports this bill because it will increase access to needed healthcare. Under current practice, a provider must render a behavioral health diagnosis within the first three appointments in order for any ongoing services to be reimbursable under the Medicaid program. It can take more than three visits with a young child to render an accurate behavioral health diagnosis.

We ask for a favorable report. If you need any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).