



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 991 – Behavioral Health - Language Assistance Services Pilot Program
Hearing Date:	March 8, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 991 – Behavioral Health - Language Assistance Services Pilot Program*. This bill establishes a 4-year pilot program, under which the Behavioral Health Administration provides grants to local behavioral health authorities to reimburse behavioral health providers for language assistance services designed to improve the health of children with limited English proficiency.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers across the state whose mission is to provide care to underserved communities. MCHS treats many patients with limited English proficiency. Behavioral health services can save lives and language assistance services can overcome an obstacle that prevents meaningful behavioral health care for children with limited English proficiency. MCHS supports the bill because it removes a major barrier to care.

We urge a favorable report on this bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.