



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 991 – Behavioral Health - Language Assistance Services Pilot Program

Hearing Date: March 8, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers (MASBHC) 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 behavioral health care and language assistance services designed to improve the health of children with limited English proficiency.

There are almost 90 school-based health centers across Maryland providing primary care and behavioral health care to underserved student communities. Access to language assistance for patients is important to the delivery of high-quality care for all populations with limited English proficiency. MASBHC supports this bill as a strong public health policy that will improve behavioral health services for children with limited English proficiency.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.