

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
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DATE: March 8, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 988 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Directed Mental Health Services – Pilot Program*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** *Senate Bill 988: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Directed Mental Health Services – Pilot Program.*

Senate Bill 988 establishes the Self-Directed Mental Health Services Pilot Program in the Department of Health (MDH) to facilitate access to clinically appropriate, person-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed self-directed services in the most integrated setting appropriate within the Medicaid program. Mental Health Self-Direction is a growing method to treat individuals with serious mental health conditions. These approaches go beyond typical medical interventions and focus on recovery, helping to build resilience, stability, and autonomy. The services provided for under this legislation include items, such as transportation, vocational training and supports, technology, goods and services needed to assist with meal preparation, homemaker services, rental assistance, and other goods and services.

The program established under this legislation would be limited to a 100-person pilot program that will be evaluated by MDH based on data collected by cost and outcomes. MedChi feels there are many patients with mental health conditions that could substantially benefit from this type of self-directed treatment. Therefore, we strongly support implementing this approach on a pilot basis in order to evaluate whether it should be expanded at a broader scale.

**For more information call:**

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