



**MMCOA
Board of Directors**

**Senate Bill 212 – Behavioral Health Advisory Council and
Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access -
Alterations**

SUPPORT

**Senate Finance Committee
January 30, 2024**

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On behalf of the Maryland Managed Care Organization Association’s (MMCOA) nine member Medicaid MCOs, thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Senate Bill 212 - Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Alterations

Senate Bill 212 would increase the coordination and collaboration between the Behavioral Health Advisory Council, which was created in 2015 and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access, created in 2023.

Additionally, the bill would require the Commission to make recommendations, in coordination with the Council, on the financial structure and quality oversight necessary to integrate somatic and behavioral health services.

The integration of somatic and behavioral health care continues to be an important public policy objective for the state. Maryland’s MCOs remain committed to working towards the goal of integrating these services in order to deliver improved access and quality health services.

We believe the increased coordination between the Council and Commission will help to develop appropriate public policy recommendations such that Medicaid members see improved access to quality and timely behavioral health treatment. We support the passage of Senate Bill 212.