



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [mota-members.com](http://mota-members.com)

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>House Health and Government Operations Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>House Bill 1040</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Limited Behavioral Health Services</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 6, 2024</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 1040 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Limited Behavioral Health Services*. The bill allows a patient under the age of 18 years old who are 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.

MOTA supports this bill because it will increase access to needed healthcare, which includes occupational therapy. Intervening early with occupational therapy in young people can promote the function and engagement of individuals and families in everyday routines by addressing areas of occupation, including activities of daily living, rest and sleep, play, education, and social participation. Currently, providers to bill for the behavioral health services they provide, they need to render a behavioral health diagnosis within the first three appointments. For clinicians, it can take more than three visits with a young child to render an accurate behavioral health diagnosis. This bill would give these clinicians the time to ensure that they are able to issue a diagnosis rather than having to rush to render a provisional diagnosis simply to be able to receive payment for those services.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).