

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

HB1474

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, Maryland Government Affairs

Favorable

DATE: March 25, 2025

RE: HB1474 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS - TELEHEALTH - STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins supports **HB1474 Licensed Professional Counselors - Telehealth - Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education** as amended. This bill allows out-of-state licensed counselors to provide telehealth services to students in state higher education institutions. This would provide increased flexibility and continuity of care to support the mental health and well-being of our students.

Johns Hopkins University takes student health and mental health very seriously. We offer a variety of supports through Mental Health Services' three on-campus clinics, as well as the Behavioral Health Crisis Support Team that provides mobile co-response to our Baltimore-based campuses. Additionally, we have an online resource to help guide students to a variety of university and community resources to support their well-being, the link is: <https://wellbeing.jhu.edu/resources/mental/>. While JHU offers a wide range of services, at times the support and continuity of care available from their existing treating provider is the most beneficial option for their mental healthcare.

Johns Hopkins University has about 17,200 enrolled undergraduate and graduate students, the majority of which are from out of state. Allowing them easier access to the mental health supports and their established providers would be a benefit for them.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **HB1474**.