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February 26, 2025

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair  
Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **RE: SB 776 – Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care System - Establishment**

### **Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Senate Finance Committee to **FAVORABLY report on SB 776**.

SB 776 establishes a dedicated workgroup to study the rising number of adverse decisions in our State Health Care System. This legislation represents a crucial step toward enhancing the accountability, transparency, and overall quality of our state's healthcare services. SB 776 will empower the workgroup to:

- **Improve Reporting Practices:** The bill will lead to better state reporting on adverse decisions, ensuring that these critical events are documented comprehensively. Enhanced reporting will provide clearer insights into the patterns and causes behind these decisions.
- **Standardize Grievance and Decision Categorization:** By developing standardized methods for reporting grievances and categorizing adverse decisions and pre-authorization denials, the workgroup will facilitate a more consistent and reliable data collection process. This standardization is essential for identifying systemic issues and formulating targeted interventions.
- **Develop Reduction Strategies:** With a clear understanding of current shortcomings, the workgroup can craft actionable strategies and recommendations aimed at reducing the number of adverse decisions. This proactive approach is key to ensuring that patients receive fair and timely access to care, while also improving the operational efficiency of healthcare providers.

The rising trend of adverse decisions has far-reaching implications—not only for patient care but also for the credibility and sustainability of our healthcare system. Establishing this workgroup will foster a culture of continuous improvement and accountability, ultimately benefiting patients, providers, and the community at large.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 776**. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D. at [mpalegislativeworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mpalegislativeworkgroup@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

*David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.*  
David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.  
President

*Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.*  
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.  
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs