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February 10, 2025

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair

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Finance Committee

Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB475 Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Exemption for Participating in Value-Based Care Arrangements

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 475**.

We are writing to ask for a Favorable report on SB 475 which would prohibit prior authorization, step therapy, or quantity limit requirements on providers engaged in two-sided incentive arrangements with health care companies. This legislation is critical in empowering healthcare providers to deliver timely and personalized care without unnecessary administrative barriers which would only benefit the insurance company and limit the practitioner's ability to exercise their clinical judgement. Two-sided incentive arrangements align the interests of providers and insurers towards achieving high-quality, cost-effective patient outcomes. By removing restrictive requirements, this bill will enhance clinical autonomy, reduce delays in patient care, and promote innovative treatment approaches that benefit both patients and the healthcare system. Supporting this legislation will foster a more efficient and patient-centered healthcare environment in our state.

We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 475**. 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 mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.

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President

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

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Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

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