

TO: Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Abbie Ellicott, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, Anne Arundel County MD

Date: 2/3/2025

SUPPORT SB0372

My name is Abbie Ellicott and I am a licensed psychologist who lives and works in Anne Arundel County. I have had a psychology practice in Maryland for 30 years and I continue to practice full time in Pasadena, MD. I strongly SUPPORT SB0372 which is designed to preserve access to telehealth services in Maryland. I have been seeing patients via telehealth as well as in person at my office. The benefits of telehealth are enormous. Many of my patients who use telehealth services are unable to come to my office for in person appointments. This is due to a variety of reasons, including lack of reliable transportation, fears of driving in bad weather, illness and physical disability that makes traveling difficult, advanced age which makes driving unsafe, and responsibilities such as childrearing or caring for an elderly or disabled family member. Telehealth provides easy access to many people who otherwise would not receive services. This includes many vulnerable populations who very much need consistent and high quality medical and mental health care. It is essential that health insurers including the Maryland Medical Assistance Program be required to continue to reimburse medical providers for telehealth services. This would ensure that some of our most marginalized citizens can continue to receive necessary medical and mental health services in an effective way.

Please SUPPORT SB0372.

Thank you all for your service to the citizens of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Abbie Ellicott, Ph.D.