



Maryland Community Health System

Bill Number: House Bill 665 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing Date: February 6, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 665 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement*. The bill prohibits state-regulated commercial plans and Maryland Medicaid from requiring a diagnosis for reimbursement of annual behavioral health wellness visits.

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) is a network of federally qualified health centers that serve underserved communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas across Maryland. We support this legislation because it removes barriers to annual behavioral health visits, an important entry point to behavioral health services for people needing care. This legislation is critical because it reduces stigma of using mental health services and creates a destigmatized opportunity for early identification and management of less intensive issues. Six states - CO, CT, DE, IL, MA, and NM – have adopted legislation similar to this bill.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can answer any questions, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.