



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

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

Hearing Date: February 6, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 665 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement*. The bill would require coverage of behavioral health and wellness visits for individuals without a behavioral health diagnosis.

MASBHC supports this legislation because of its positive impact on access to care for children. In the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2013–2023*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 4 in 10 students had persistent feelings of hopelessness or sadness.ⁱ We need to remove unnecessary barriers to care for these children. Coverage of behavioral health wellness visits should not be contingent on a diagnosis.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/mental-health/index.html>