TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair; and The Health and Government Operations Committee

The Honorable Sponsors Woods, et al.

FROM: Lisa D. Fisher, LCSW-C

DATE: February 4, 2025

RE: **SUPPORT** – HB 665 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement

Senator Pena-Melnyk, Distinguished Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee and Sponsors Woods, Acevero, Alston, Bagnall, Charkoudian, Fair, Kaiser, Kaufman, R. Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, Phillips, Roberts, Ruff, Ruth, Simmons, Solomon, Taylor, Terrasa, Valderrama, and Williams:

Thank you for considering my written statement supporting House Bill 665 on the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement for inclusion in the public record. I am Lisa D. Fisher, a Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical (LCSW-C) in Maryland, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in Virginia, and likewise in Delaware. I live in Harford County, Maryland.

I stand with my colleagues that support this legislation so that Marylanders under the medical assistance program and health insurance will have access to annual behavioral health wellness visits. Furthermore, the clinician will be reimbursed for a diagnosable disorder that would require treatment or for a preventative treatment plan as both are discussed and created with the patient/client.

For me, this is a way to move Maryland to a healthier state of mind, body, and soul. I can only imagine how some patients/clients would be delighted to know care is provided and they are seen.

Thank you for your time, attention, and favorable report on House Bill 665 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement.

Respectfully, am,

Lisa D. Fisher, M.Ed., M.Div., BCC, LCSW-C Maryland #21862 Virginia #0904016088 Delaware #Q1-0012465