

**HB772**  
**Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization – Establishment**  
House Health Committee  
February 25, 2026  
**Support**

**Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports HB772**, which will develop transparent, cost-based reimbursement methodologies for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) and outpatient mental health centers. This bill paves the way for clear, data-driven recommendations through the workgroup to modernize Maryland’s behavioral health rate-setting process. This bill clearly defines the study parameters and workgroup membership to **ensure meaningful provider participation** and a formative evaluation that **reflects operational realities across Maryland**.

For over a century, Catholic Charities has provided care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity, support their pursuit of employment and career advancement, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve independence, prepare for educational success, and welcome immigrant neighbors into Maryland communities.

Catholic Charities’ Villa Maria Behavioral Health program is the second-largest nonprofit provider of behavioral health services in Maryland. Our 225 counselors and psychiatric rehabilitation specialists serve more than 3,500 patients across eight Maryland counties and Baltimore City through community schools, stand-alone clinics, and telehealth. Rising costs, including inflation, competitive salaries, benefits, and utilities, combined with outdated reimbursement structures are placing significant strain on providers.

Current reimbursement rates often fail to account for workforce recruitment and retention costs, inflationary pressures, and increasing regulatory obligations. These gaps constrain provider capacity and restrict access to timely, high-quality treatment for Marylanders.

HB772 establishes a structured process to examine these challenges and develop sustainable solutions. By bringing together elected officials, state agency representatives, and community behavioral health providers, the workgroup will create a strong foundation for data-driven rate recommendations that reflect the true cost of delivering care.

Modernizing the rate-setting process will strengthen confidence among both providers and the State, reduce bottlenecks created by outdated methodologies, and promote more effective use of public resources. Research from the National Institutes of Health demonstrates that healthcare modernization efforts are most effective when guided by a multidisciplinary approach. HB772 reflects that principle by requiring collaborative, expert-driven analysis and actionable recommendations.

**For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB772.**

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez on behalf of Sarah Katvala, Advocacy Fellow