

May 27, 2016

The Honorable Thomas V. Miller, Jr.  
Senate President  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 899 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Specialty Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services – Parity*.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt regulations necessary to ensure that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program is in compliance with specified federal laws and provides that the Department is not required to adopt specified regulations for any change that may be made through a process other than the regulatory process. The bill also requires the regulations to include standards regarding treatment limitations for specialty mental health and substance use disorder services that comply with the federal laws.

House Bill 1217, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 899.

Sincerely,

Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.