



SB 453

Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders –

List of Available Services

Senate Finance Committee

February 18, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH) is the professional organization for community-based programs offering outpatient mental health and substance use treatment, residential services, psychiatric rehabilitation, and crisis services. Our 65 members serve nearly three-quarters of the 290,000 adults and children using Maryland's public behavioral health system.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in five children has a mental health disorder. Parents and other caregivers often struggle to find available services for their child, particularly if covered by commercial insurance. It is important to note that the list required by this bill would include both children on Medicaid and those with private insurance coverage. HB 374 is an important first step in helping ensure that Maryland's children in need of mental health services are connected with appropriate care.

We urge a favorable report on SB 453.