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February 18, 2020

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Patricia F. O'Connor, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 453 (Behavioral Health Administration - Children with Mental Disorders - List of Available Services): Support

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) supports Senate Bill 453 because the bill would improve access to information about services available for children with mental disorders in Maryland. The bill would require the Behavioral Health Administration to maintain a list of services available to children with mental disorders who are enrolled in Medicaid or have health insurance coverage.

The services enumerated in the bill are psychiatric rehabilitation services; therapeutic services; care coordination services; and home health aide services. The list would be available upon request through the Behavioral Health Administration website. The HEAU receives inquiries relating to the availability of such services, and believes access to a list of services would benefit children requiring the services, and their parents or guardians.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to give the bill a favorable report.

cc: Senator Pinsky, Sponsor