

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 18, 2020

Senator Stephen Hershey  
James Senate Office Building, Room 420  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Hershey:

University of Maryland Shore Regional Health is an enthusiastic supporter of Senate Bill 502, which will require Maryland Medicaid, as well as other insurance companies issuing policies in Maryland, to provide mental health services appropriately delivered through telehealth and to deliver those services in the patient's home setting.

Enabling and funding home based telehealth will greatly assist patients and their families who lack access to transportation or for whom the distance traveled to and from such care elsewhere is a hardship due to disabilities, co-morbidities and exacerbates both mental and physical health issues.

Telehealth is now a standard and important tool in improving access to health care. In the case of rural areas such as the one we serve here on the Eastern Shore, from Kent County through Dorchester County, telehealth is critical for reaching our patients and keeping them safe and healthy at home.

The approval of and funding for home based telehealth for mental health services is an important component of helping us in our mission of *creating healthier communities together*. Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kozel, FACHE  
President and CEO