



**MID SHORE**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
RESOURCES, GUIDANCE, WHOLENESS, & HOPE

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State Senator: Stephen S. Hershey  
*District 36, Caroline, Cecil, Kent & Queen Anne's Counties*  
James Senate Office Building, Room 420  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for SB502; Health Insurance, Telehealth Delivery of Mental Health Services, Coverage for Home Setting**

Dear Senator Hershey,

Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (MSBH), has the pleasure of serving as the Core Service Agency for the five mid-shore counties: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties. MSBH also serves as the lead agency for the Eastern Shore Behavioral Health Coalition that supports education and advocacy to the community and stakeholders regarding developments and issues impacting access to, and delivery of behavioral health services on the Eastern Shore.

Serving in both capacities, it is my responsibility to work towards a system of care that ensures that all individuals in need of access for behavioral health services are entitled and supported to receive services. I understand the importance of dependable access to behavioral health services for residents of the mid-shore and I am sensitive to the need to expand the access to mental health services in our rural region. The mid-shore counties represent the growing trend of the limited behavioral health workforce in rural regions of Maryland. In addition, the Eastern Shore region has a tremendous transportation barrier with the vacancy of public transit in most of the region; this element impacts individuals accessing services for all healthcare needs.

SB502 is aligned with the efforts that MSBH and the Eastern Shore Behavioral Health Coalition have supported historically and currently and that are necessary for ensuring mental health treatment access for our constituents. SB502 would allow for the expansion of the use of telehealth to support services being delivered in the home. Telehealth has its roots in the delivery of mental health care to individuals in the home, as well as allowing access for Veterans', so it is only natural that the allowances put forth by SB502 would be endorsed in Maryland.

I am in full support of SB502 that would require Maryland's Medical Assistance Program to expand to include mental health service delivery in the consumer's home. Please consider the endorsement of this essential expansion to our services for the residents of Maryland.

Very Respectfully,  
Kathryn G. Dilley, LCSW-C  
Executive Director, MSBH