



February 5, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
House Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – HB 374: Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) is a state medical organization whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, MPS works to ensure available, accessible and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branch of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland excluding the D.C. suburbs, MPS represents over 700 psychiatrists as well as physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS supports House Bill 374 (HB 374) as many children throughout Maryland suffer from mental illness and yet do not have knowledge of the resources that provide meaningful mental health services. As a result, Maryland children are all too often not receiving the mental health treatment they so desperately need and would benefit. The list of services created under HB 274 would provide information about integrated mental health services, including necessary home medical support. Today, no resource exists that provides this degree of detailed information.

Passage of HB 374, therefore, is a critical step to providing Maryland citizens with a resource on providers of needed mental health services. MPS, therefore, asks the committee to give HB 374 a favorable report.

If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Legislative Action Committee for the Maryland Psychiatric Society.