



Enrique Oviedo, M.D.
Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
Board Certified Adult, Child & Adolescent, and Addiction Psychiatrist

1501 Sulgrave Avenue, Suite 313
Baltimore, Maryland 21209
Telephone: 443-377-1793
Fax: 844-883-0833

Dear Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Dr. Enrique Oviedo and I'm a board certified in adult, child, and addiction psychiatrist. After meeting with multiple delegates, we have heard loud and clear that increasing access to care is your top priority. As a physician who went to medical school for 4 years followed by 6 years of residency, I am here to advocate for the delivery of high-quality care. Our interests are not mutually exclusive.

There is no shortage of psychiatrists in Maryland. We rank in the top 10 for both adult and child psychiatrists. I should not be lost that with the passing of House Bill 570 last year, psychiatrists now have the opportunity to fulfill the role of medical director via telemedicine. Let's give that legislation an opportunity to do what it was intended to do.

The level of patient complexity is high in OMHCs. We treat people with severe mental disorders such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, as well as special populations including children & adolescents. Scope of practice, including fulfilling the role of a medical director, should be commensurate with level of education and training. Titles and words matter. The term medical director has always been reserved for a physician.

Access to care is vital. So is physician-led health care, which is the standard in every field of medicine, including psychiatry. The AMA and APA released a joint statement earlier this year stating medicine should always be directed by a physician. As part of a multidisciplinary team, nurse practitioners play an important role. But psychiatrists best understand how the brain and the body work together.

Let's implement the best health care delivery system for all Marylanders. One that maintains the highest standards, is accessible, equitable, and further advances the implementation of parity. Your constituents, regardless of where they live, deserve nothing less. Please support HB1461.

Sincerely,

Enrique Oviedo MD