

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: January 27, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 56 – *MD Medical Assistance Program – Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Telemedicine Reimbursement – Sunset Termination*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 56.

This legislation repeals the termination of several enactments made since 2018 that relate to the payment of psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners who provide telehealth services under the MD Medical Assistance Program.

In 2018, the statute was clarified to allow psychiatrists who provide Assertive Community Treatment or Mobile Treatment in a home or community-based setting to be reimbursed by the program. In 2019, psychiatric nurse practitioners were added to the statute. Both enactments are set to expire in September of 2021.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that telehealth is an indispensable tool in providing health care and particularly mental health care. Access is critical and telehealth has provided an additional means of access, especially when in-person patient visits were either ill-advised or not possible at all. Ensuring that this invaluable tool remains available requires the General Assembly to act on this legislation.

For these reasons, MedChi asks that the Committee adopt Senate Bill 56.

**For more information call:**

J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000