



## Maryland Community Health System

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 637 – Health and Health Insurance - Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services - Expansion (Behavioral Health System Modernization Act)</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>February 23, 2022</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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Maryland Community Health System strongly supports *Senate Bill 637 – Health and Health Insurance - Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services - Expansion (Behavioral Health System Modernization Act)*. This bill seeks to increase the state's investment in behavioral health services significantly.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and dental services to underserved communities. We support this legislation because it is a needed investment in the behavioral health safety net, which has been stretched beyond capacity. We wanted to note that one part of the bill is of interest to providers like federally qualified health centers. Building on the Collaborative Care Pilot Program, the bill requires the Department to reimburse for behavioral health services provided in primary care settings. Although specialty behavioral health providers are very important to our behavioral health system, integrating behavioral health and primary care is a way we can increase access to care.

We ask for a favorable report, and we stand ready to assist the Committee in every way possible in this endeavor. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Scott Tiffin at [stiffin@policypartners.net](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net).