



## **SB 659 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Psychiatric Inpatient Care – Admissions Restrictions**

**Committee:** Senate Finance

**Date:** February 22, 2022

**POSITION:** Support

**The Maryland Coalition of Families:** Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) helps families who care for a loved one with behavioral health needs. Using personal experience, our staff provide one-to-one peer support and navigation services to family members with a child, youth or adult with a mental health, substance use or gambling issue.

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MCF strongly supports SB 659.

Individuals with health care coverage through Maryland Medicaid have every right to be seen in a psychiatric hospital that can take them in a timely manner and can provide quality care - preferably not far from their home. It is unconscionable that this has not always been the case in the past.

SB 659 would simply require that the Department of Health no longer restrict the psychiatric hospitals where a consumer of mental health services can be admitted for care, subject to medical necessity criteria. Such restrictions have caused significant hardships for those who have required inpatient psychiatric treatment.

Therefore we request a favorable report on SB 659.

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