



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 971 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Substance Abuse Treatment –
Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 971 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Substance Abuse Treatment – Network Adequacy. HB 971 will require MDH and its Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to ensure the delivery system for specialty mental health services under the Maryland Medicaid Program (Maryland Medicaid) has an adequate number of substance use disorder (SUD) providers available to deliver drug and alcohol misuse treatment for children under 18.

Maryland Medicaid provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid as part of its Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Maryland Medicaid operates under an any willing provider model to ensure participants can access services and network adequacy must be sufficient to meet participant needs. A network adequacy assessment could help inform decision making on how to further grow the provider network to continue to serve the needs of vulnerable Marylanders and identify areas within the state that MDH should do targeted outreach in.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Shek, Director of Governmental Affairs, at heather.shek@maryland.gov or (443) 695-4218.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis R. Schrader".

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary