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February 28, 2022

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House Office Building, Rm 241

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RE: HB 715 SUPPORT

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Brian Corrado, PsyD

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Representatives-at-large

Shalena Heard, PhD

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the **HGO Committee to favorably report on HB 715.**

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

The Maryland Medical Assistance mental health and substance abuse delivery system is in crisis! These are words we do not use lightly. Ever since the current Administrative Service Organization took over from Beacon, the delivery system has had continuing systems' problems which have interfered with patient care and with mental health practitioners' ability to stay in business. The ASO's clinical systems as well as the payment and financial systems are in disarray. Initially, practitioners could not submit required treatment plans because of software problems, then practitioners could not get paid. Then practitioners were paid based on a previous year's billings. Now, the ASO is trying to reconcile the approximation payments with actual billings, but they cannot provide us with the paperwork to actually reconcile the payments and billings. Nonetheless, the ASO is moving forward with retracting money from practitioners.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

The practitioners who provide care to individuals with Medical Assistance are committed to providing high quality care. But practitioners can only stay in business if they can rely on a stable payment system that provide regular payment and proper accounting. Because of the current ASO, many practitioners have closed their offices, or closed their practice to individuals with Maryland Medical Assistance, and more are about to do the same.

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

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Unless the Maryland General Assembly steps in to address the current crisis regarding Maryland Medical Assistance's specialty behavioral care's ASO, many more clients and families in treatment are going to be without care.

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Selena Snow, PhD

Please address this crisis. The **MPA urges the House Government Operations Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 715.**

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

Please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at exec@marylandpsychology.org if we can be of assistance.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stefanie Reeves, CAE

Sincerely,

Linda McGhee

Linda McGhee, Psy.D., JD

President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs