



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 0421

In Support Of

Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth - Authorization

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing: February 10, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Joseline Pena - Melnyk, Vice Chair, and Distinguished Health and Government Operations Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association requests a favorable report on HB 0421 Out - of - State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth - Authorization.

This bill is vital for residents of the state of Maryland who have Health Practitioners outside the state. For the elderly this is most important to be able to access Telehealth with their doctor whose practice may be in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, or Virginia. Telehealth is the wave of the future and has been crucial during the time of this pandemic. In the future this would help those who do not have transportation to see the doctor out of state.

The pandemic has laid bare the need for greater access to behavioral health services for all Marylanders and shown the importance of access to telemedicine now and in the future. Easy access to behavioral health care and treatment is essential to one's overall health. Please support this bill for all who need to use telehealth for a doctor out of state.

On behalf of the almost 13,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge a favorable report on HB 421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George D. Denny, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

George D. Denny, Jr.
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia G. Crespo" in a cursive style.

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide