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February 24, 2023

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Ariana B. Kelly, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1148 Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access

Position: **Support**

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

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Health and Government Operations Committee to **FAVORABLY report on HB 1148.**

The MPA strongly supports establishing a Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access and appreciates the opportunity participate on the Commission.

In addition, MPA supports the development of a Pilot Program within Maryland Medical Assistance to provide services which might otherwise not be covered by Maryland Medical Assistance but which are cost-effective and prevent expensive hospitalization.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 1148. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnik, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

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

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