



March 4, 2023

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 581: Behavioral Health Value Based Model – Pilot Program**

Members of the Maryland Senate’s Finance Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members and support our local non-profits that fill necessary roles in our non-profit support and services networks. We fully support SB 581 and the help that it will bring to all the citizens that benefit from the Value Based, coordinated Behavioral Health Care Model.

“Behavioral health care coordination” means a person-centered, team-based activity designed to (1) assess and meet the needs of an individual with a behavioral health condition and (2) help the individual navigate the health care system effectively and efficiently.

Too often many individuals waiting for behavioral health care services are left languishing in emergency rooms waiting for a bed in a behavioral health treatment facility. The additional 500 beds that this program creates is a step forward that we hope MDH can build upon and expand it as the need within our communities is already greater than the existing system’s capacity.

We would like to ask and encourage this committee to explore and expand the use and overall benefits of such a program through this type of care model and program. Especially as these programs impact a variety of communities including; Black, Brown, Disabled, the elderly or infirmed, Poor, Non-English Speakers, Veterans and Non-Veterans alike.

The future of Maryland’s interlocking support service networks supports the lives of so many citizens. And the future care of all Maryland citizens relies on these networks and its service providers. Please support and protect the rights of citizens that access these medical assistance programs while improving access and the quality of these service offerings. We ask the committee to please support Senate Bill 581 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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