



March 7, 2023

Senate Bill 582

**Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)
Senate Finance Committee**

Position: FAVORABLE

Senate Bill 582 would establish a Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access and take other steps in order to improve access to mental health treatment and modernize the State's mental health care system. This Commission will be charged with assessing the current landscape of behavioral health services to identify needs and gaps, reviewing trends and best practices from other states, and providing recommendations on health infrastructure, workforce, and other issues to be taken up in the future.

Health - physical health and mental health - is what matters the most to every one of us, regardless of political philosophy. In many ways, the COVID pandemic strengthened us and strengthened our health and human service agencies. But it also increased the need for crisis behavioral health services in our communities

With the legislature's support, in mid-December of last year, Anne Arundel County finally received from the State the deed for the Crownsville Hospital Center. Our vision for the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park is to preserve the undeveloped portion of the property and establish passive uses such as trails. The developed portion of the property will be utilized to further enhance the health and wellness non-profit presence and community support services that are already on site.

Crownsville will be a center for healing. As we bring that land and its historic buildings back to life, we will be nurturing the nonprofit organizations that undertake that work in a new Health and Wellness incubator at a building we already own on the Crownsville campus - 41 Community Place. Our capital program already includes funding to restore that building

Anne Arundel County looks forward to being a part of an improved behavioral health system for our State and our residents. I ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 582