Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee: **Senate Finance Committee**

Bill Number: **Senate Bill 108 - Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement**

Date: **February 1, 2023**

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 108 – Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement.* This bill requires coverage and reimbursement for annual behavioral health wellness visits in state-regulated private insurance plans.

Occupational therapists address barriers that individuals with mental health conditions experience in the community by providing interventions that focus on enhancing existing skills; remediating or restoring skills; modifying or adapting the environment or activity; and preventing relapse. As such, both the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) include mental health services within the scope of practice for occupational therapists. [1]

Many Marylanders do not have access to necessary care due to gaps in our system. This bill will help close these gaps by investing in prevention and early intervention for serious behavioral health conditions. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

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[1] National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy – Certificate Renewal.
https://www.nbcot.org/Certificants/Certification

American Occupational Therapy Association – Occupational Therapy's Role in Community Mental Health.
https://www.aota.org/~/media/Corporate/Files/AboutOT/Professionals/WhatIsOT/MH/Facts/Community-mental-health.pdf