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The Hon. Melony Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Hon. Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
123 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Pyramid Healthcare Favorable with Amendments Testimony re Senate Bill 582 / House Bill 1148 – An Act Concerning “Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)”

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and distinguished members of the Committee:

The Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. (“Pyramid Healthcare”) family of companies is providing information and feedback below regarding Senate Bill 582, an act concerning “Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland).” We urge you to adopt the legislation with an amendment to add the Maryland Addiction Directors Council (“MADC”) as a member of the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access. As a member of MADC, Pyramid Healthcare believes their voice is an essential component of such a crucial conversation and supports their testimony that the Council should be included on the Commission.

As background, Pyramid Healthcare was founded in 1999 and is an integrated behavioral healthcare system that employs over 3,000 professionals caring for 12,000 unique commercial and Medicaid patients per day throughout our residential and outpatient locations across eight states. We offer a treatment continuum providing comprehensive behavioral healthcare specialties, including: substance use disorder, mental health, autism, and eating disorder treatment across an integrated network of service lines and affiliated behavioral healthcare organizations. In Maryland, Pyramid Healthcare operates 170 licensed treatment beds across four locations which serve thousands of clients per year across our California residential and outpatient treatment centers, Charlotte Hall residential treatment center, and Harford County residential treatment center. In addition, we recently received approval for our certificate of need (CON) application to build a residential treatment center outside of Bowie in Prince George’s County.

These facilities serve adult men and women with substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders by providing medically-managed detoxification, short-term and long-term residential rehabilitation, partial hospitalization (PHP), and intensive outpatient (IOP) services as well as medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. We also provide transportation for clients to and from our facilities to ensure wider access to care across the State. All of our facilities are licensed by the State of Maryland and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Specifically, please amend Section 13-4803(A)(14) to add a new (IV) to read: “**(IV) One Representative of the Maryland Addiction Directors Council;**”.

Please consider this feedback and amend the legislation accordingly. Thank you for your support of mental health, behavioral health, and substance use providers in Maryland and for considering our policy proposals and recommendations on behalf of Pyramid Healthcare. If we can provide any additional information or materials, please contact me at crosier@pyramidhc.com or 667-270-1582. In addition, we invite you or a member of the Committee or staff to reach out and schedule a visit to one of our Maryland locations sometime soon to learn more about our programs and services.

Sincerely,



Collan B. Rosier
Vice President of Government Relations

**CC: Members, Senate Finance Committee
Tammy Kraft, Committee Manager**