



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

Senate Bill 582 – Behavioral Health Model for Maryland

Senate Finance Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 582 establishes the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access for the purpose of making recommendations to provide appropriate, accessible, and comprehensive behavioral health services to Marylanders. The legislation also establishes the Behavioral Health Care Coordination Value-Based Purchasing Pilot Program tasked with establishing and implementing an intensive care coordination model using value-based purchasing in the specialty behavioral health system. SB 582 also requires the Maryland Department of Health to submit a report on their findings and recommendations from the pilot program. Further, the Department is to submit a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish certified community behavioral health clinics.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on behavioral health has been profound and is still unfolding. By being prepared to respond to future challenges and ensuring that behavioral health treatment is provided through a lens of accessibility, Marylanders will have more equitable and quality services. The Chamber supports identifying and assessing needs and gaps in these services. It is more important than ever for our workforce to have quality behavioral health access.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on **SB 582**.

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