



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MDCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 1, 2023

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 108 – *Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MDCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MDCSWC, we submit this **letter of information** for Senate Bill 108.

Senate Bill 108 requires commercial insurers and HMOs to provide coverage for annual behavioral health wellness visits analogous to annual somatic wellness exams. While MDCSWC is supportive of the intent of the bill, we have concerns that the language is too vague and may have unintended consequences. Annual screenings for behavioral health wellness visits are notable, however the bill language describes “... and as appropriate, brief intervention and recommendations for additional behavioral health care services.” The bill fails to specify if additional behavioral health care services would be covered by insurers.

Additionally, the ongoing healthcare workforce shortage in Maryland, exacerbated by the pandemic, already lacks the capacity to handle current care needs. Maryland must focus on initiatives to increase the behavioral health workforce to ensure access to services.

For more information call:

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