



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY

Jennifer L. Hardesty, PharmD, FASCP, Board President — Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 582 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendment for Senate Bill (SB) 582 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland).

SB 582 would establish the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to make recommendations to provide appropriate, accessible, and comprehensive behavioral health services to individuals in Maryland across the behavioral health continuum that are available on demand. § 12-4804.

A licensed pharmacist could provide insight into which medications are available and appropriate for individuals in need of psychiatric rehabilitation services or medication-assisted treatment. Currently, a Maryland-licensed pharmacist is authorized to administer maintenance injectable medications, which are frequently used to manage psychiatric conditions. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-509. Incorporating the knowledge of a pharmacist who has clinical experience providing drug therapy to individuals in need of specialized psychiatric treatment could help the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access develop appropriate recommendations.

Based on the above-mentioned item, the Board recommends the following amendment:

Amendment 1

On page 5, line 3, add “ONE LICENSED PHARMACIST WITH EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES” to the list of members appointed by the Governor.

With the proposed amendment, the Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 582.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director