



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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| Committee: | Senate Finance Committee |
| Bill Title: | Senate Bill 582 – Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland) |
| Hearing Date: | March 7, 2023 |
| Position: | Support |

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) fully supports *Senate Bill 582 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access*. The bill provides a comprehensive approach to behavioral health access including these two key provisions:

- **Establishment of the Commission on Treatment and Access in Behavioral Health.** We strongly support this comprehensive planning approach that will incorporate input from all the stakeholders. As part of the behavioral health provider community, we are committed to participating in and supporting the work of the Commission.
- **Extension of Audio-Only and Parity in Reimbursement Payment Policies for Telehealth.** SB 3/HB 123 of 2021 established the foundation for telehealth reimbursement requirements for Medicaid and state-regulated private plans. This bill extends two key provisions – audio-only reimbursement and parity in reimbursement for telehealth services. This extension will ensure that telehealth can continue to be integrated into the health care system.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.