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March 17, 2023

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
House Office Building, RM 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 534 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in **SUPPORT of SB 534**, which would extend telehealth coverage and reimbursement by Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations, extending to a certain date a requirement on the Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations. Telehealth services have provided, and continue to provide, a commonly used and access point to healthcare and mental healthcare. We think lowered healthcare access and outcomes would result if insurance coverage and reimbursement for these telehealth services come to an end at this time. There exists a group of Marylanders who are unable to access health care providers in any other manner than through the telephone.

For the reasons noted above the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 534.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 534. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativecommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs