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March 2, 2023

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House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

RE: HB 722 Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Health and Government Operations Committee to **UNFAVORABLY report on HB 722.**

This bill would allow a Physician Assistant to be a second evaluator of individuals in a variety of urgent and emergency situations, many involving their mental health. Physician Assistants are not able to independently practice in Maryland and do not have the required education and training in mental health to assess the emergency needs of the individuals in these circumstances. **Allowing untrained practitioners who are not able to practice independently to evaluate and make these decisions, we believe, is not in the interests of vulnerable individuals in these circumstances.**

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 722. If we can be of any further assistance as the Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@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
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