



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



---

*The Maryland State Medical Society*  
1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Andrew G. Vetter  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

DATE: March 28, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 581 – *Behavioral Health Care Coordination Value-Based Purchasing Pilot Program*

---

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 581.

Senate Bill 581 establishes the Behavioral Health Value-Based Purchasing Pilot Program. The program is designed to pilot an intensive care coordination model using value-based purchasing in the specialty behavioral health system. The pilot is designed to provide person-centered, team-based services designed to assess and meet the needs of an individual with a behavioral health condition and help the individual navigate the healthcare system. Mandatory funding for the pilot is provided for in Fiscal Years 2025-27.

The above-named organizations strongly support a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges and needs of individuals in the State to access necessary behavioral health services. There is a pressing need to enhance and expand current access. The pilot program established with the passage of Senate Bill 581 provides an opportunity to evaluate the potential of a value-based purchasing program to meet those objectives. A favorable report is requested.