



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 271

Title: 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding

Hearing Date: February 7, 2023

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 271 – 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding*. This bill will provide \$12 million in state funding to the 9-8-8 Program for fiscal 2025. MOTA supported SB 241 which created the 9-8-8 Trust Fund in 2022. We support the continued investment under this year’s bill to ensure the program is functional and effective. Maryland is facing one of the most significant health professional shortages in our lifetimes. As part of the continuum of behavioral health providers, occupational therapy practitioners support programs, such as the 9-8-8 Program, that help consumers find the services they need to navigate or avoid behavioral health crises. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.