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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1148 - Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access

**Hearing Date:** February 28, 2023

**Position:** Support

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *House Bill 1148 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access*. The bill, while mostly about behavioral health, includes telehealth provisions regard reimbursement for all health care services. The bill extends two provisions of SB 3/HB 123 which are set to sunset at the end of June 2023: 1) reimbursement for audio-only services; and 2) reimbursement parity for telehealth services. It is critical that Maryland continue these policies to ensure the health care system can meet the needs of patients for somatic, behavioral health, and dental care.

A recent report from the Maryland Health Care Commission observed that the telehealth use during the pandemic “demonstrated the utility of telehealth and the potential of telehealth to address disparities in access to care.”<sup>i</sup> In reproductive health, telehealth has been critical in supporting access to a wide range of services including birth control, abortion, and prevention of HIV.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit\\_telemedicine/documents/hit\\_tlth\\_study\\_recommendations.pdf](https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit_telemedicine/documents/hit_tlth_study_recommendations.pdf)