

Senate Bill 101 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion

SUPPORT

House Health & Government Operations Committee

March 21, 2023

The Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine supports Senate Bill 101, which will make the ongoing financial support for the Maryland Medical Assistance Collaborative Care Model Service statewide. Research studies as well as local pilot programs at our University Hospitals and local medical practices have demonstrated superior patient outcomes when services are combined. Patients benefit by receiving recommended screenings, coordinated care with better management of chronic medical and serious mental health conditions, substance abuse treatment and treatment of infectious diseases.

This coordinated care model involves a team approach by several specialties and streamlines the delivery of care, providing a “one stop shop” access for patient convenience. It allows for direct communication among healthcare professionals and is a more holistic approach than traditional fragmented care where the patient may be seen in any number of locations by several providers who often have difficulty communicating with one another. This model not only improves patient care delivery, it saves money, promotes provider satisfaction and benefits the community at large.

Patients who receive primary care and behavioral health treatment in one place have better outcomes. Patients who receive treatment for their mental health and substance use disorders are able to reintegrate and become contributing members of their communities. Treatment of infectious diseases and substance use disorders also decreases spread of infections and expensive hospitalizations for consequences of ongoing active substance abuse.

In short support of this bill benefits everyone. We urge a favorable report.