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Legislative District 22  
Prince George's County

Chair  
Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Chair  
Local Government and  
Bi-County Agencies Subcommittee



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## Testimony in Support of HB1148 - Behavioral Health Care-Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)

February 2/28/2023  
Chair Anne Healey

Madame Chair and Members of Health and Government Operations Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Anne Healey here to testify on HB 1148. I want to thank both the Chair and the Sponsor for the work they have put into this COMPREHENSIVE Bill on Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access.

I have long been frustrated by the lack of adequate care for our vulnerable Maryland residents who need this specific care.

Over my years in the House of Delegates, I have had several occasions when I was able to intervene and help constituents with severe mental health issues to find the services they needed.

These were desperate parents of adults with severe mental health issues who were in crisis and unable to get the help they needed without a legislator asking and making the calls and following up. This should not be.

Maryland is a wealthy state, and, in most areas, we are on the cutting edge of progress but when it comes to caring for people with behavioral or mental illness, we have historically fallen short.

This bill for the first time offers genuine HOPE.

After decades of failed policies of de-institutionalization which has left us with no safety net, this bill provides a way for us to learn from Best Practices in other states to create a Blueprint for designing a system of care that will LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.