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Chair, Executive Nominations Committee

Spending Affordability Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 154

Public Health – Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database

Good Afternoon Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of Health and Government Operations Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 154, Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database. SB 154 requires the Department of Health to develop and implement a public awareness campaign to encourage the use of mental health advance directives.

It also requires the Behavioral Health Administration and the Maryland Health Care Commission to jointly study the how first responders and behavioral health crisis providers can access an advanced directive database when responding to a behavioral health crisis.

This bill was previously filed as SB 994, in 2022 by Senator Addie Eckardt, it passed the Senate however there was not enough time for it to pass the House. This year it passed the Senate, 45 to 0.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 154.