



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

February 9, 2023

SUPPORT – SB255 - Public Health - Home- and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of SB255 requiring the Maryland Department of Health to expand access to and provide reimbursement for certain behavioral health collaborative care, case management, and wraparound services including the funding of 100 slots in the mental health case management program for children or youth at risk of out-of-home placement who are not eligible for program services

Local Management Boards coordinate and manage Local Care Teams in every jurisdiction in the state. Through our care teams we have noted the increasing number of youth impacted by mental health issues, especially as a result of the isolation, stress and grief related to the pandemic. Access to behavioral services, especially those supporting wraparound care, is most important as we help our young people move forward and access opportunities for their future success. With the rippling mental and behavioral impacts of the pandemic coupled with overuse of social media, children's mental and behavioral health is fragile now, now more than ever.

We urge you to support SB255 to address the behavioral health needs of children and youth in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Legislative Chair