

**March 28th, 2023 - Alexander Allin: Support (FAV) for SB 154**

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241 - House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am a sophomore in Montgomery County (District 16) that's active in student mental health advocacy. I am writing to support Senate Bill 154 (Public Health - Mental Health Advance Directives - Awareness and Statewide Database). Creating a system for Mental Health Advance Directives (MHADs) would further advance the safety of all students in Maryland by helping healthcare professionals easily understand what procedures are safe and beneficial to them.

MHADs allow people experiencing mental health challenges to choose what their treatment looks like during a crisis before one occurs. For example, MHADs can state preferred facilities, allergies, trusted care persons, and other crucial information that allows medical professionals to do their job more safely and efficiently.

As Maryland law allows people 16+ to be involved in decisions about their mental health, a favorable report for SB 154 is crucial in making students experiencing mental health challenges feel supported and cared for no matter their circumstances.

Thank you for your time,  
Alexander Allin, [alex@duck.science](mailto:alex@duck.science)