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March 17, 2023

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The Hon. Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Pyramid Healthcare Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 101 / House Bill 48 – An Act Concerning “Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion”

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Committee:

The Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. (“Pyramid Healthcare”) family of companies writes in support of and urges the Committee to adopt Senate Bill 101, an act concerning “Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion.” The legislation would make Maryland’s Collaborative Care Pilot Program permanent and would require the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”) to reimburse services to Medicaid enrollees throughout the State according to the collaborative care model. We believe these changes are crucial in improving outcomes for the state’s Medicaid behavioral health enrollees.

As background, Pyramid Healthcare was founded in 1999 and is an integrated behavioral healthcare system that employs over 3,000 professionals caring for 12,000 unique commercial and Medicaid patients per day throughout our residential and outpatient locations across eight states. We offer a treatment continuum providing comprehensive behavioral healthcare specialties, including: substance use disorder, mental health, autism, and eating disorder treatment across an integrated network of service lines and affiliated behavioral healthcare organizations. In Maryland, Pyramid Healthcare operates 170 licensed behavioral healthcare treatment beds in addition to outpatient behavioral health treatment facilities across four locations which serve thousands of clients per year. In addition, we recently received approval for our certificate of need (CON) application to build a residential chemical dependency treatment center in Bowie, Prince George’s County.

These facilities serve adult men and women with substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders by providing medically-managed detoxification, short-term and long-term residential rehabilitation, partial hospitalization (PHP), and intensive outpatient (IOP) services as well as medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. All of our facilities are licensed by the State of Maryland and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Please pass this important piece of legislation. Thank you for your support of mental health, behavioral health, and substance use providers in Maryland and for considering our policy proposals and recommendations on behalf of Pyramid Healthcare. If we can provide any additional information or materials, please contact me at crosier@pyramidhc.com or 667-270-1582. In addition, we invite you or a member of the Committee or staff to reach out and schedule a visit to one of our Maryland locations sometime soon to learn more about our programs and services.

Sincerely,



Collan B. Rosier
Vice President of Government Relations

**CC: Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Gail L. Wegner, Assistant to Chair**