



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair: Senator Guy Guzzone

To the House Government Operations Committee

Chair: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk

March 17, 2023

Senate Bill 3: 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3, 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding.

MRHA believes that all Marylanders, including those 1.8 million living in rural Maryland communities, deserve equitable, timely, and effective mental health and substance use care, including help in times of crisis. Maryland’s rural communities need mental health and emotional support more than ever, and investing in the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a critical way to provide that support. Funding will help promote existing and new behavioral health services in high need across Maryland.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director

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