



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Melony Griffith

To House Government Operations Committee

Chair: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk

March 17, 2023

Senate Bill 101: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 101, Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion.

MRHA believes that Medicaid reimbursement of behavioral health services via the collaborative care model services will greatly benefit Maryland residents. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, more than half the people in Maryland with mental illness did not receive any treatment.ⁱ By requiring Medicaid reimbursement, more people in need of mental health services will have access through a collaborative care model. The collaborative care model has been continuously proven to improve quality of care, patient outcomes, and patient safety.ⁱⁱ No one should be denied such effective services.

Without Medicaid reimbursement, the approximately 1.5 million Marylanders enrolled in Medicaid will continue to be denied critical and effective mental health services. With this fact in mind, we urge you to support SB 101.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director

jdayton@mdruralhealth.org

ⁱ Mental Health in Maryland. NAMI. <https://nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/StateFactSheets/MarylandStateFactSheet.pdf>. Published 2021. Accessed January 24, 2023.

ⁱⁱ Morley L, Cashell A. Collaboration in health care. *Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences*. 2017;48(2):207-216. doi:10.1016/j.jmir.2017.02.071