

HB82/SB201

Unfavorable

Love Maryland PAC

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, Distinguished Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Chair Penya-Melynk, Vice Chair Kelly, and Distinguished Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

The Love Maryland PAC submits testimony to request an unfavorable report on HB82/SB201- Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement.

This bill is unnecessary as all of the services listed are already available with an IEP, and serves ONLY to cut parents out of the support and care process for their children.

Parents, in order to best care for children and prioritize meeting their needs MUST know what services those children are receiving at school. All the services that this bill is intended to cover are already covered by Medicaid and MCHIP once children are under an IEP. The difference is, with an IEP parents are part of the process of care and with this bill, parents would be left in the dark about what care their minor children are receiving at school.

Imagine how many parents who are already struggling with higher grocery bills, higher prices at the pump and wages that are not keeping up with rising costs may sacrifice or berate themselves if unable to pay for services for their child that they don't know their child is already receiving at school!

Schools do not have the capacity to determine what mental health care a child needs without parental input. They often do not know what services children are already receiving outside of school. That is why parents are absolutely integral to any care or services their child is receiving.

Children thrive when a three legged stool of the child, the parents and the care providers are working together for the betterment of the child. This bill is a shameful attempt to end run a child's best interest and shortchange them of the support they need most.

For the reasons listed above, we ask the committees to deliver an unfavorable report on HB82/SB201.

Sincerely,

Megan Montgomery

Chair

Love Maryland PAC