



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [www.mota-members.com](http://www.mota-members.com)

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 82 - Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services – Reimbursement

**Hearing Date:** February 14, 2023

**Position:** Favorable with Amendment

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 82 – Maryland Medical Assistance and Children’s Health Insurance Programs – School-Based Health Services – Reimbursement*. The bill proposes to enhance resources for behavioral health services in schools by seeking more federal matching dollars through the Medicaid program.

Maryland needs to expand access to behavioral health for students. This bill offers the opportunity for local education agencies to build their school health infrastructure staffs as well as expand innovative partnerships with community providers. Schools have had tremendous difficulty in recruiting and retaining providers, in part, because the Blueprint did not include school health providers. The legislation recognizes that there are federal matching funds available for behavioral health services already being provided in schools. We appreciate that there may be some implementation challenges, and we are committed to supporting the work needed to move forward.

We would like to request an amendment that recognizes occupational therapy practitioners also provide behavioral health services. We understand that there may be some other technical amendments suggested for this section of the bill, and we are happy to work with other stakeholders:

On page 2 after line 24 insert:

“OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTITIONERS LICENSED UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE”

If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).