



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: HB 82 - Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement

Hearing Date: February 14, 2023

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 82 – Maryland Medical Assistance and Children’s Health Insurance Programs – School-Based Health Services – Reimbursement*. The bill establishes a framework for the State to seek federally reimbursement for certain behavioral health services provided in schools.

Maryland’s students are facing a behavioral health crisis. In 2020, 15% of youth between 12-17 years of age had a major depressive disorder; and almost 60% of those youth did not have treatment.ⁱ We support moving forward in efforts to draw down federal matching dollars on school health services. Those funds can be used to augment resources for behavioral health at the local level.

We should also note there is considerable incentive to seek a federal match on reimbursable somatic care services. Federal funds could be used to fill the significant gaps in staffing of school nurses. Many schools do not have a full-time nurse, and school nurses report that it is common to be split among 2 or 3 schools (see attachment).

We wanted to highlight that a technical amendment is needed:

On page 2 in lines 18-19, please make the following changes:

~~“SCHOOL NURSES LICENSED UNDER TITLE 8 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE CERTIFIED BY THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION”~~

We ask for a favorable report with our technical amendment. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://mhanational.org/issues/2023/mental-health-america-youth-data>