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House Office Building, RM 241

Annapolis, MD 21401

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

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Position: **Support**

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Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

**Representative to APA Council**

Peter Smith, PsyD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Health and Government Operations Committee to **FAVORABLY report on Senate Bill 101 which provides** for Medical Assistance coverage through an integrative care model, known as the collaborative care model, which is currently funded as a pilot program. We support and encourage all integrated primary care and behavioral health models, one of which is the collaborative care model. **MPA has been working with stakeholders to ensure that the collaborative care model operates to its fullest potential and with the fullest complement of mental health providers including psychologists.** We realize the amount of time and effort that has gone into developing the current model and the importance of moving mental health care in the direction of integrative care. As a result, we withdrew our initial amendments so as not to delay the bill.

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We welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsoring legislators on both the House and Senate side of this bill, the MHAMD, and other stakeholders to develop and implement other forms of evidence-based integrative primary and behavioral health models that can be less costly. A part of this future discussion would be to consider improvements to the integrated care models that recognize all four of the Medicare approved codes for behavioral health integration services that would allow for more flexibility, the inclusion of psychologists at levels appropriate to their skills and training, while maintaining the quality of care received by Medicaid participants.

**Educational Affairs**

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

**Ethics**

Colleen Byrne, PhD

**Legislative**

Pat Savage, PhD

Thank you for considering our comments on Senate Bill 101. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage [atmpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:atmpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com).

**Membership**

Linda Herbert, PhD

**Professional Practice**

Karin Cleary, PhD

**PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS**

Respectfully submitted,

**OFFICER**

Paul C. Berman, PhD

*Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.*

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

President

*R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.*

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

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cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs