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March 4, 2023

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RE: SB 582 Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access

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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 SB 582**.

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Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

The MPA **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** establishing a Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access and appreciates the opportunity participate on the Commission.

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

In addition, MPA supports the development of a Pilot Program within Maryland Medical Assistance to provide services which might otherwise not be covered by Maryland Medical Assistance, but which are cost-effective and prevent expensive hospitalization.

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 582. If we can be of any further assistance as the Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Respectfully submitted,

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

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

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