

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Ways and Means committee,

My name is Aysia Rodriguez, I am a 25-year-old college student and resident of District 32 in Anne Arundel County. I am requesting the Ways & Means Committee give a favorable report for HB1107. HB1107 will bridge the gap between our youth and the vital resources needed to combat the mental health crisis consuming our youth today, especially here in Anne Arundel County. HB1107 seeks to create a more efficient and effective pathway to reduce crippling wait times, confusion and unhealthy outcomes. The creation of two new behavioral health care coordinators is imperative to better coordinate critical services to school aged children and their families that voluntarily call into the Anne Arundel County Help Hotline seeking services (help).

Given the wide range of needs of people experiencing a mental health crisis, getting the right help at the right time depends on the availability and adequacy of the mental health service context and the mental health crisis system. While an individual crisis cannot be fully predicted, this bill will help how the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency organizes it's approach to best meet the needs of those individuals who experience a mental health crisis.

We must strengthen the mental health care work force in Anne Arundel County.