

March 8, 2023

House Bill 1170 Anne Arundel County – School–Age Children Mental Health Support System Pilot Program House Ways & Means Committee

Position: SUPPORT

2-1-1 is Maryland's simple, easy to remember number for health and human services. 211 Maryland is the state's most comprehensive health and human services resource database. With over 7,500 resources, they help individuals with essential needs get connected to local help 24/7, 365 days a year and in more than 150 languages. They oversee a statewide network of call centers, providing essential connections to Marylanders when they need it most. Callers are automatically routed to their regional call center for assistance, and 211, Press 1 callers are connected to a larger group of crisis centers. 211 Maryland helps citizens find essential resources in the most comprehensive unmet needs database in the state and also offers free and confidential mental health check-ins.

House Bill 1107 bridges the gap between our youth and the vital resources needed to combat the mental health crisis consuming our youth today. This legislation seeks to create a more efficient and effective pathway to reduce crippling wait times, confusion and unhealthy outcomes. HB1107 establishes a position to coordinate critical services to be delivered to school-aged-children that voluntarily call the Anne Arundel County Help Hotline.

We would like to thank the General Assembly for recognizing the importance of 2-1-1 Maryland's work in the state and for the steps taken in the previous session to establish policies allowing the network to sustainably support all residents in Maryland.

It is for these aforementioned reasons, that we politely ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1107.

Thank you,

Janice Williams, Chair Maryland Information Network

For more information call or email:

Therese M. Hessler 301-503-2576 | therese@ashlargr.com