



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
House Health & Government Operations Committee  
Room 241 - House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Oppose – House Bill 1085: Maryland Insurance Administration - Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Reporting Requirements - Revisions and Sunset Repeal

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS oppose House Bill 1085: Maryland Insurance Administration - Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Reporting Requirements - Revisions and Sunset Repeal (HB 1085). ***Because HB 1074 is more robust in its approach to this issue, MPS/WPS prefers that bill as opposed to this one***, though the two bills seek to address the same subject matter. Please see our support of HB 1074 for the specifics. Therefore, MPS/WPS ask the committee for an unfavorable report on HB 1085. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee