

February 28, 2024

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The Hon. Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Pyramid Healthcare Testimony in Support of House Bill 933, An Act Concerning Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services – 9–8–8 Trust Fund Fees**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Committee:

The Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. (“Pyramid Healthcare”) family of companies is providing testimony below in support of House Bill 933, which would establish a permanent funding source for the 988 Trust Fund to sustain and strengthen 988 mental health helpline services in Maryland.

Pyramid Healthcare is an integrated behavioral healthcare system serving Medicaid and commercial clients in 9 states across a continuum of residential and outpatient substance abuse, mental health, autism, and eating disorder treatment services. We employ over 3,600 team members across our 80+ active facilities which treat approximately 12,000 clients on any given day.

In Maryland, we operate four locations: a detox & residential and an outpatient treatment center in California, a detox and residential treatment center in Charlotte Hall, and a detox & residential treatment center in Joppa. In total, we have approximately 170 substance use disorder residential treatment beds for adult Medicaid clients across the state. We are currently under construction on our new Prince George’s facility and expected to begin operations in mid-2024 with approximately 75 detox and residential substance use treatment beds for adults with substance use disorder. That facility will be located in outside of Bowie and will serve the residents of Prince George’s County, Anne Arundel County, and throughout central Maryland.

Maryland established the 988 Trust Fund in 2022 to provide dedicated funding for 988, but no permanent funding source was established at that time. Instead, federal grants and state general revenue funds have supported Maryland’s 988 launch. These state and federal funds run out next year. Maryland’s 988 network needs a permanent funding source to address this fiscal cliff.

HB 933 would create this permanent funding mechanism through a \$0.25 per month 988 telecom fee modeled after Maryland's current 911 funding structure. This would generate \$15-20 million annually to support current 988 operations, investments in new technology, and targeted service expansions. This dedicated funding is essential to meet increasingly strict federal 988 standards and ensure Marylanders can access 988 for lifesaving counseling and support when they need it.

Please consider this feedback and pass this bill out of Committee. Thank you for your support of mental health, behavioral health, and substance use providers in Maryland and for considering my requests on behalf of Pyramid Healthcare. If we can provide any additional information or materials, please contact me at [crosier@pyramidhc.com](mailto:crosier@pyramidhc.com) or 667-270-1582. In addition, we invite you or a member of the Committee or staff to reach out and schedule a visit to one of our Maryland locations sometime soon to learn more about our programs and services.

Sincerely,



Collan B. Rosier  
Vice President of Government Relations

**CC: Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Michelle Firmin, Assistant to Chair**