



February 27, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – Senate Bill 732: Department of Juvenile Services and Maryland Department of Health – Inpatient Program for Children

Dear Chairman Smith 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 support Senate Bill 732: Department of Juvenile Services and Maryland Department of Health – Inpatient Program for Children (SB 732). SB 732 will serve as a much-needed avenue to do intensive evaluation and treatment planning for kids who might otherwise be consigned to the treatment void of detention centers. Currently, youth entangled in the juvenile justice system are not getting the necessary services. Instead, many come to the emergency department only to be summarily discharged, with their next stop usually being the detention center where no rehabilitation or skills-building techniques exist. SB 732 seeks to break that cycle

Therefore, MPS/WPS ask this honorable committee for a favorable report on SB 732. 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