



February 17, 2025

**RE: SUPPORT OF SB599  
Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program – Funding**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Respected Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The Affiliated Sante Group is a Maryland-based behavioral health and crisis support services provider located in 15 jurisdictions throughout the State of Maryland, where in the past year we have provided services to over 60,000 individuals. The proposed Senate Bill SB599 for Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program Funding directly and positively impacts the ability to serve individuals to gain control and to navigate their daily lives. While there is still a gap in funding for fiscal year (FY) 2026 in SB599, **we at Sante would like to express our support and urge you to not only support the bill, but also advocate for funding to include FY26.**

The SB599 works to provide funding to the following essential behavioral health crisis services in several jurisdictions throughout the state: adult/youth/school-based mobile crisis, urgent care, walk-in crisis services, adult-crisis beds, and adult SUD observation chairs (further breakdown can be seen in the table below "Appendix 1"). The crisis services impacted by the loss of funding for FY26, may only be a portion of the overall crisis services provided in Maryland, but may also play a significant role in helping to reduce hospitalizations, use of jails, law enforcement, and emergency personnel. Behavioral health crisis services extend beyond individuals and provide support for large-scale events, such as the Key Bridge collapse and mass shootings. The loss or reduction of crisis services not only impacts individuals within our communities, but also has negative financial implications; trained professionals are able to help de-escalate situations to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. In the past year, we at Sante were able to divert over 800 individuals from the emergency room, 1,000 from psychiatric emergency petitions, and 100 from the criminal justice system.

For the reasons identified within this letter, **we again respectfully urge you to support SB 599 and advocate for the need to provide funding for FY26.**

Should you have any questions and/or need for further information, please feel free to utilize us as a resource and companion, in supporting the behavioral-crisis community. A member of our leadership team would be happy to have the opportunity to speak with you further, to discuss the need and to obtain any guidance and support on how to best move forward.

Respectfully,

Affiliated Sante Group

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**Behavioral Health & Crisis Response Solutions**

*Restoring hope & building resilience together.*

Chairman Guzzone and Respected Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

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**Appendix I . Number of Grants and Funds Distribution**

Jurisdictions	Grant Allocation	Service Provided
Baltimore City	\$849,144	Adult Mobile Crisis
Baltimore County	\$304,855	Urgent Care Services
Calvert	\$382,976	Crisis Call Center
Carroll	\$373,171	Youth and Adult Mobile Crisis
Frederick	\$862,830	Walk-in Crisis Services for Youth and Adults
Harford	\$111,000	School-based Mobile Crisis Services
Howard	\$810,372	Adult Crisis Beds
Midshore	\$413,000	Youth Mobile Crisis
Prince George's	\$806,652	Adult SUD Observation Chairs
Washington	\$96,404	Adult Mobile Crisis Services
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,010,404</b>	