

**Senate Bill 904 – Data Brokers – Registry and Gross Income Tax  
(Building Information Guardrails Data Act of 2025)**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

March 5, 2025

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 904.

Among other things, SB 904 would require certain data brokers to pay a tax on their gross income. The bill names the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund as the recipient of 35% of the revenue generated, or \$120 million, whichever is greater.

MHAMD supports this legislation because of the significant funding it would provide to the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund, which is administered by the Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports. Established by the Blueprint legislation, the Partnership Fund is to be used to provide services and supports in schools to meet the behavioral health needs of students. Current funding for the Partnership Fund is at risk – the BRFA proposes to cut the fund from \$130 million per year to \$40 million per year beginning in FY26.

Yet the need for mental health care that addresses the unique needs of young Marylanders has never been greater. Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 2022-23 shows that 28% of Maryland high school students reported that their mental health was not good most of the time or always, and 24% of middle school students reported that they had seriously considered suicide.<sup>1</sup> Over the past decade, in the face of this rising need, Maryland has seen a marked decline in the availability of services and supports for youth with mental health and substance use conditions.

With dollars from the Partnership Fund, the Consortium has made significant progress in addressing this shortage. Last year the Consortium awarded \$111 million to 129 grantees in all of Maryland's jurisdictions. Grantees provided a range of behavioral health services, from prevention and early intervention to treatment for youth with more serious concerns. Consortium grantees served more than 58,000 students in just six months in 2024. They added

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Department of Health releases 2022-2023 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey data. Maryland Department of Health. June 25, 2024.

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Reports/Pages/YRBS-2022-2023.aspx>

475 new behavioral health workforce members, and they trained 1,185 school staff in behavioral health practices.

Outcomes have been outstanding. Of students receiving early intervention services, 77% demonstrated improvement in behavioral health outcomes, and of those receiving intensive services, 70% demonstrated improvement in behavioral health outcomes. Ninety percent of students and families reported satisfaction with the behavioral health services they received.<sup>2</sup>

Because of the dramatic need for school-based behavioral health services and because of the overwhelming success of Consortium grantees, it is critical that the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund continue to thrive. The dollars that SB 904 would bring to the fund are urgently needed, therefore we urge a favorable report.

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<sup>2</sup> Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports Statewide Impact Report. March-October 2024. [https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Documents/002%20-%20MD%20Consortium%20Documents%20%26%20Info/03%20-%20January%202025/Impact%20Report\\_010925%20%284%29.jpg](https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Documents/002%20-%20MD%20Consortium%20Documents%20%26%20Info/03%20-%20January%202025/Impact%20Report_010925%20%284%29.jpg)