



PO Box 368 Laurel, MD 20725

410-992-4258

www.marylandpsychology.org

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.

Past President

Brian Corrado, Psy.D.

Secretary

Meghan Mattos, Psy.D.

Treasurer

Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representatives-at-large

Rachel Singer, Ph.D.

Deborah Williams, Psy.D.

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, Psy.D.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, Ph.D.

Diversity

Mindy Milstein, Ph.D.

Early Career Psychologist

Alayna Berkowitz, Ph.D.

Educational Affairs

Sarah Crawley, Ph.D.

Ethics

LaShaun Williams, Psy.D.

Legislative

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Taylor Dickerson

February 10, 2025

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB 411 Health Insurance – Postpartum Screening – Required Coverage and Authorized Cost Sharing

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Senate Finance Committee to **FAVORABLY report on SB 411.**

Postpartum depression (PPD) affects approximately 1 in 7 women, making it one of the most common complications of childbirth (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Despite its prevalence, many women go undiagnosed and untreated, leading to adverse outcomes for both mothers and their children. Early screening and intervention can significantly improve health outcomes, yet financial barriers often prevent access to these essential services. Research shows that untreated postpartum depression can have long-term negative effects on child development, including cognitive, emotional, and behavioral issues. By requiring coverage for postpartum depression screening, this bill will help identify at-risk mothers early, allowing for timely intervention and reducing the long-term societal costs associated with untreated maternal mental health conditions. Ensuring that all new mothers have access to postpartum screening is a vital step in promoting public health and supporting families in our state.

We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 411**. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D. at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.
David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.
President

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs