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February 14, 2025

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Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 592 Public Health – Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs – Establishment
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair Hayes, 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 592**.

We are writing to provide strong support for SB 592 which requires that civil penalties from behavioral health programs not in compliance with quality standards be paid to a fund designed to provide funding to improve the quality of behavioral health care. Ensuring high-quality behavioral health care is critical to the well-being of our communities, and this fund would provide much-needed resources to improve services across the state. By holding non-compliant programs accountable and reinvesting those funds into training, grants, and other quality improvement initiatives, Maryland can enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of behavioral health care for those who need it most. We ask you to support this initiative to strengthen our behavioral health system and improve outcomes for individuals and families across our state.

We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 592**. 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.

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cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
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