

inseparable

February 28, 2025

Senate Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
East Miller Senate Building, Room 3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Via electronic submission

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB0790—Maryland Department of Health—Workgroup to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements

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

On behalf of Inseparable, a national nonprofit mental health advocacy organization, I write to urge your support of SB790. This legislation would establish a workgroup to create a plan to implement recommendations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to enhance children's mental health.

Maryland has long recognized the urgent need to support the wellbeing of children and has made important investments to do so. Recent data is beginning to show [improvements](#) among the state's youth, yet more needs to be done—particularly to identify children who are struggling and get them help earlier, before symptoms get worse and more costly and complex to treat.

Fortunately, CMS' new guidelines for [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(EPSDT\)](#) services (mandatory for all state Medicaid programs' coverage of children), offer a promising path "to ensure that individual eligible children get the health care they need, when they need it, in the most appropriate setting." Inseparable is grateful to Delegate Woods and the many cosponsors of HB1083 for recognizing this unique opportunity to ensure that Maryland takes thoughtful advantage of CMS' guidance. Specifically, the bill will result in a Department of Health workgroup of stakeholders to create a plan that addresses EPSDT guidance, including screening and assessment, services to build skills for mental health, and services to address worrisome signs or symptoms with or without a diagnosis.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB790 and continue Maryland's leadership in supporting children's mental health.

Respectfully,



Angela Kimball
Chief Advocacy Officer