



*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary*

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: Senate Bill 790 – Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Plan to Implement Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment Requirements – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 790 – Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Plan to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements.

SB 790 requires the Department to convene a workgroup of behavioral health professionals, advocates, and families with experience navigating the behavioral health system to develop recommendations to implement certain Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements and best practices outlined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in SHO #24-005.<sup>1</sup> As amended, the bill requires the Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Healthcare Treatment and Access and its workgroup on youth behavioral health, individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals with complex behavioral health needs to consult with stakeholders to develop these recommendations. The Department must submit a report of these recommendations on or before January 1, 2026. The Department notes that the tasks outlined in this bill can be completed with existing resources and will be budget-neutral.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho24005.pdf>

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA  
Acting Secretary