



**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 790 – Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment Access – Plan to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Hearing Date:** March 4, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly of School-Based Health Care supports *Senate Bill 790 – Maryland Department of Health – Workgroup to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements*. This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to convene a workgroup on behavioral health screenings for children in Medicaid’s Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

MASBHC advocates for the nearly 90 school-based health centers that serve students in underserved communities with a high concentration of poverty. We are committed to expanding access to behavioral health screenings for children, given the rising prevalence of children facing behavioral health challenges. With recent guidance on best practices for the EPSDT Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised that “States should avoid requiring an EPSDT-eligible child to have a specific behavioral health diagnosis for the provision of services, as screenings may identify symptoms that require attention but do not meet diagnostic criteria”.<sup>1</sup> This bill will take us one step closer to complying with those best practices.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>1</sup> [SHO # 24-005 Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Requirements.pdf](#)