



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

March 26, 2025

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

**RE: Senate Bill 900 - Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System -  
Integration of 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Network and Outcome Evaluations -  
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) 900. The proposed legislation would require the Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System to have a State 9–8–8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, rather than a crisis communication center, in each jurisdiction to coordinate with the national 9–8–8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Network to provide certain support services and requires the Department to annually report on specified data elements on or before December 1 each year, beginning in 2026.

As amended, SB 900 would clarify Maryland vs. national 9-8-8 entities, require coordination with mobile crisis response and stabilization services, and refine law enforcement engagement data elements and the vehicle for consumer experience reporting.

The Department supports the amendments to SB 900 and its goals to ensure coordination with 988, the provision of key services, and the sharing of 988 and crisis system data. The Department has been working with jurisdictions to increase coordination between Maryland 9-8-8 Call/Text/Chat Centers and crisis services and improve crisis system data collection.

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,

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA  
Acting Secretary