



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1083 – Maryland Department of Health - Workgroup to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements

Date: March 5, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) supports *House Bill 1083 – Maryland Department of Health - Workgroup to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements*. This bill will require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to convene a workgroup to create a plan for implementing Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements recommended in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Health Official letter #24-005. MDH will submit a report of the findings and recommendations of the workgroup by December 1, 2025.

The EPSDT benefit helps children receive health care services that prevent and treat myriad health conditions. The goal of EPSDT is to ensure that individual eligible children get the health care they need, when they need it, in the most appropriate setting. The State Health Official letter referenced in the bill provides an overview of EPSDT requirements and suggestions for how states can meet the goal of EPSDT. The guidance discusses policies, strategies, and best practices to maximize health care access and utilization for EPSDT-eligible children. Specifically, the guidance advised “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.”¹ This bill will take us one step closer to compliance.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

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