

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 665 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement

Hearing Date: February 6, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses supports *House Bill 665 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement*. This legislation requires coverage of behavioral health visits for individuals, both children and adults, without a behavioral health diagnosis.

For clinicians treating children, it can be particularly challenging to render a behavioral health diagnosis.ⁱ Therefore, coverage of annual behavioral health wellness visits should not be contingent on a diagnosis. With 4 in 10 students report persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessnessⁱⁱ, we need to remove every barrier to behavioral health care for youth.

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

ⁱ<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6345125/#:~:text=In%20very%20young%20children%2C%20physiological,accommodate%20requests%20to%20address%20them>.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/mental-health/index.html>