



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: 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

Date: March 26, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) supports *Senate Bill 790 – 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. MdAPA recognizes EPSDT policy as a professional standard of care that promotes services that can optimize child development from an early age and supports the state in ensuring that these standards are met.

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