



HB 519- Public Health-Hospitals-Parking for Patients

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Date: 2/10/2025

Position: FAV

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides family peer support services at no cost to families who have a loved one with mental health, substance use, or problem gambling disorder. Using their personal experience as parents, caregivers, and other loved ones, our staff provide emotional support, resource connection, systems navigation, support groups, educational training, and workshops.

Last year, we served nearly 5,000 families, and 73% were families with children. Additionally, 15% were families with substance use and co-occurring disorders, 10% were adults with a mental health diagnosis, and 2% were families with a loved one with problem gambling disorder.

We are asking for a favorable report for HB 519

- Having access to free parking for inpatient and outpatient visits will provide financial relief for families with a loved one with a behavioral health challenge. Some of the families we serve visit the hospital frequently. These visits include mental health crisis visits, inpatient visits, intensive outpatient visits, medical appointments, and more. As you can imagine, the cost of parking can add up quickly for these families especially if their child is in the day treatment program.
- Free parking reduces additional stress and barriers these families may face when getting their loved ones the necessary medical and behavioral health services they may need.



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