



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Bill Number: House Bill 381 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)

Hearing Date: January 30, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Community Health System supports *House Bill 381 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program with Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)*. The bill would require both private insurance and Medicaid to cover aesthetic and restorative services provided to assist certain survivors of domestic violence.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers who focus on providing primary, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities. We are concerned about the impact of domestic violence on our patients. Scarring and other disfigurement can re-traumatize survivors.ⁱ This legislation supports their recovery by providing coverage of aesthetic and restorative services.

We would ask for an amendment that recognizes other services provided by non-physicians are included. We particularly want to cite dentistry as important to treating injuries from domestic violence:

On page 3 in lines 26-27, strike “PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED” and replace with “HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE”

We ask for a favorable report with this amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ Hulley J, Wager K, Gomersall T, Bailey L, Kirkman G, Gibbs G, Jones AD. Continuous Traumatic Stress: Examining the Experiences and Support Needs of Women After Separation From an Abusive Partner. *J Interpers Violence*. 2023 May;38(9-10):6275-6297. doi: 10.1177/08862605221132776. Epub 2022 Nov 13. PMID: 36373601; PMCID: PMC10052415.