



House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 5, 2025

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of support for House Bill 1083.

House Bill 1083 establishes a workgroup convened by Maryland Department of Health to create a plan and recommendations for Maryland to implement the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements reflected in the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' State Health Official (SHO) letter #24-005: *Best Practices for Adhering to EPSDT Requirements*. The SHO letter includes a specific focus on EPSDT requirements related to behavioral health. In alignment with the SHO letter, House Bill 1083 specifies that the plan developed by the Workgroup must address (1) the screening and assessment of behavioral health conditions; (2) the feasibility of implementing a specific diagnostic tool for patients younger than age five; (3) community-based services to correct and ameliorate behavioral health conditions; and (4) services to ensure children's behavioral health, early symptoms of concern (with or without a diagnosis), and urgent and crisis needs.

The EPSDT Program is a federal requirement that mandates that States cover specified benefits for Medicaid recipients from birth through age 20 – benefits that are not necessarily covered for recipients who are aged 21 and older. EPSDT requirements are a cornerstone of the Medicaid program and ensure robust health coverage for children. 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. Addressing behavioral health issues and needs is an essential part of the EPSDT program. House Bill 1083 will help ensure that Maryland maximizes the effectiveness of the EPSDT behavioral health services for Maryland's most vulnerable children. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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