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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support: House Bill 1510, Medical Records – Notice of Destruction – Method

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1100 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) supports House Bill 1510, Medical Records – Notice of Destruction – Method. This bill allows the notice regarding the destruction of a medical record, laboratory, or x-ray report to be made by first-class mail or e-mail. It provides the option to select a method instead of requiring both methods as required by current law. MPS supports this bill because it ensures that we preserve the physician-patient privilege, particularly in mailing notices to a residence where a patient's family is not privy to counseling and/or treatment services.

For these reasons, MPS supports HB1510. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee