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February 14, 2025

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
101 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB0779 - Correctional Services - Medication Review Committee - Administration of Psychotropic Medication to an Incarcerated Individual

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Judiciary Committee to report FAVORABLY on HB0779.

This bill will provide protections for inmates with mental health disorders, ensuring they receive medications that are appropriate for their diagnoses. The establishment of an oversight committee provides protections against use of medications for chemical restraint purposes while also ensuring inmates receive previously prescribed medications as needed and as appropriate. As prisons provide a significant portion of the mental health care in our state, it is vitally important that the care received within those institutions is provided appropriately and within the context of a treatment team.

We are especially enthusiastic about the provisions in this bill that provide the oversight for how medications can be provided over the objections of an inmate. We understand this issue may arise periodically and will pose an issue of safety for inmates themselves and the general population of other inmates, so the need for this provision is important. The requirements included in this bill, including the committee's approval of use of medication without consent, are of vital importance in assuring this power is not abused.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB0779. If we can be of any further assistance as the Judiciary Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Wolf at [mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

*David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.*  
David Goode-Cross, Ph.D.  
President

*Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.*  
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.  
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs