



HB 1305 - Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports - Workgroup &
Study

House Ways & Means Committee

March 5, 2025

UNFAVORABLE

Research shows that **1 in 6 young people struggle with mental illness**, yet fewer than 20% receive adequate care. This unmet need has created a **school behavioral health crisis**, making it harder for teachers to teach and students to succeed. Families, schools, and communities feel the consequences daily.

Recognizing that **strong behavioral health support is essential for student achievement**, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future established the **Consortium for Coordinated Community Supports** to expand access and streamline critical services for Maryland's public school students. This investment is already delivering results:

- From **March to October 2024, 58,000 students received services**, reaching **80% of Maryland schools**.
- **70% of students receiving intensive services showed measurable improvement** in behavioral health outcomes.

This progress **must continue**. Cutting or freezing funding for the Consortium would **undermine** these gains, disrupt care for vulnerable students, and weaken the support system that schools rely on. The Consortium is actively collecting data, evaluating impact, and refining its approach—ensuring resources are used effectively. **This bill threatens that progress without valid justification.**

We strongly urge the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Please contact Ellie Mitchell at emitchell@mostnetwork.org for additional information.