

**Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee**  
**House Bill 1305: Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports -**  
**Workgroup and Study**  
**\*\*OPPOSE\*\***  
**March 5, 2025**

Delegate Atterbeary, Delegate Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

The National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD) strongly opposes HB 1305: Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports - Workgroup and Study. The Maryland Consortium for Coordinated Community Supports (CCCS), a key component of the Blueprint legislation under the auspices of the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), was created and funded to expand access to preventive, early- and acute-intervention behavioral health and wraparound services to students and their families. Services are provided in schools—where students are—and through local community providers. They address and work to remediate barriers to student learning. In a recent Statewide Impact Report, the CCCS shared that between March and October 2024, which was the first seven months of direct service implementation:

- 80% of Maryland schools received services
- More than 58,000 students were seen
- Community agencies were able to hire 475 additional providers
- 754 professionals and 1185 school staff members were trained in proven practices to support student outcomes
- 70% of those receiving the most intensive services showed improvement in behavioral outcomes
- 90% of the students and families were satisfied with the services provided

HB 1305 proposes to establish a workgroup examining the effectiveness of the CCCS service delivery model, its level of collaboration with local school systems, and the equity of its grant funding throughout the state. A review of CCCS meeting transcripts shows that these are all issues for which the Consortium is either: already collecting and examining data; has recognized and modified in their current RFA cycle; or closely considered in the first grant funding cycle. The Consortium's work has been transparent and the proposed workgroup would only confirm what is already public record. More important, the bill proposes a one-year halt in funding for grants in FY 2026 at a time when not only do the mental health needs of our students continue but may well escalate as their families face the onslaught of stressors from the current national political climate.

We respectfully ask that the House Ways and Means Committee return an unfavorable report on this legislation.

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