



409 7th St Northwest, Suite 305
Washington, D.C. 20004
March 2, 2026

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Via electronic submission

RE: Support with Amendment to SB 284: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026

Dear Chair Gazzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Inseparable, a national mental health advocacy organization, I write to urge you to restore the full \$100 million annual appropriations for the **Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund**. The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026 would reduce that funding to \$80 million, a 20% cut to a program that is in high demand and delivering measurable results (Education §7-447.1, page 9).

Last year, the legislature rejected proposed cuts and established a stable \$100 million annual appropriation, recognizing the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund as a cornerstone of Maryland's student mental health infrastructure. That investment has allowed the program to scale quickly and demonstrate measurable results. Reducing funding now would reverse that progress at a time of growing youth mental health need.

The Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund, a key component of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, enables schools to provide holistic, wraparound behavioral health services that meet students where they are.

Data from the [Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports](#) demonstrates the extraordinary demand for this program, which significantly exceeds available resources. For FY27 alone, providers requested \$152 million in funding, far above the current appropriation, demonstrating the scale of unmet need across Maryland schools. Despite limited funding, the program has already delivered services to tens of thousands of students and reached a majority of eligible schools across urban, suburban, and rural communities statewide.

The Fund has supported the hiring of hundreds of behavioral health professionals and support staff, strengthening Maryland's youth behavioral health workforce and expanding service capacity. Participating students demonstrate meaningful reductions in symptom severity and improved functioning, and families

report high satisfaction with services—clear evidence that early intervention delivered through schools produces measurable results.

The appetite for this program has been clear since its inception. Previous grant rounds received hundreds of proposals requesting far more funding than available, confirming that communities across Maryland are eager to expand evidence-based mental health supports for students.

Despite this success, the proposed reduction risks significant and immediate consequences:

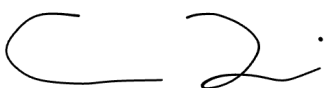
- **Costly mental health crises:** When students do not receive the help they need for mental health challenges, there are typically costly increases in emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
- **Educational decline:** Mental health is directly linked to academic success. When students struggle with untreated mental health conditions, absenteeism increases and students' ability to learn and succeed in school diminishes.
- **Strain on families:** School mental health services reduce barriers to care for families. Without this critical access, families will experience significant stress and difficulty as they seek services for their children.
- **Long-term financial burden:** Prevention and early intervention provided by school mental health programs are cost-effective investments. Reducing access to these services for students now risks much higher future expenditures by Maryland in emergency care, child welfare and justice system involvement, and adult mental health and addiction services.

While we recognize the difficult fiscal decisions facing the state, the evidence is clear: the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund is working exactly as intended. Reducing funding now would slow momentum, disrupt services already underway, and deny students access to proven supports at a time of growing need.

Maryland has established itself as a national leader in youth mental health through sustained investment and bipartisan commitment. We respectfully urge the Committee to preserve that leadership by restoring the full \$100 million annual appropriation.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please reach me at caden@inseparable.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caden Fabbi', with a period at the end.

Caden Fabbi
Director of State Affairs, Inseparable