



MARYLAND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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February 27, 2026

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230 Taylor House Office Building
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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**RE: HB 883 Consumer Protection – Artificial Intelligence – Behavioral Health Care Prohibitions
Position: SUPPORT**

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Representatives-at-large

Deborah Williams, Psy.D.
Laurie Donze, Ph.D.

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Economic Matters Committee to **provide a favorable report on HB 883.**

Representative to APA Council

Mary Fernandes, Ph.D.

Maryland House Bill 883 represents a thoughtful and necessary consumer protection measure that addresses the rapidly expanding role of artificial intelligence in behavioral health care. The bill appropriately prohibits developers from representing that artificial intelligence systems are behavioral health providers or capable of providing behavioral health care and requires clear disclosure that consumers are not communicating with a human. It further mandates protocols that take reasonable steps to detect suicidal ideation and refer individuals to appropriate crisis services, thereby prioritizing patient safety and public health. These protections reflect sound policy judgment in a field where vulnerable individuals may rely on technology during moments of psychological distress, and they ensure that artificial intelligence supplements—rather than replaces—licensed professional care.

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Maryland’s proposal is consistent with emerging national standards recognizing the need for safeguards in the use of artificial intelligence in mental health contexts. Several states have already taken action to regulate AI in behavioral health and related services. A number of states, including Illinois, New York, Nevada, Utah, and California, for example, have enacted legislation that has restricted the use of artificial intelligence in therapy and psychotherapy services, and required technology companies to disclose that AI chatbots are not human. Other states are also developing regulatory frameworks to address both innovation and public safety concerns. Utah has established a State Office of Artificial Intelligence to guide policy development, promote responsible innovation, and address the mental health implications of AI technologies.

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LaShaun Williams, Psy.D.

HB 883 provides proactive safeguards that protects patients, supports ethical technological development, reinforces the critical role of licensed behavioral health professionals in delivering mental health care, and requires a meaningful and critical “...notice that the consumer is not communicating with a human, displayed at the beginning of each use.”

Legislative

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.

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Steve Sobelman, Ph.D.

For these, and many other reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association respectfully urges the Committee to provide a **Favorable Report on House Bill 883**. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of MPA’s Legislative Committee, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

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Paul C. Berman, Ph.D.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Taylor Dickerson

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
President

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs