

The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Delegate Valderrama and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

I am a mental health care professional and business owner in the state of Maryland, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 883, sponsored by Delegates Qi, Boafo, Guyton, Kaiser, J. Long, Miller, Palakovich Carr, Rose, Tomlinson, Turner, Woods, and Wu.

People in crisis, including those experiencing trauma, depression, suicidal ideation, or acute mental health emergencies, deserve to know with certainty whether they are communicating with a licensed human professional or an artificial intelligence system. This confusion has life-or-death consequences. There are documented cases in which individuals in crisis were not aware they were interacting with an AI, received insufficient responses, and experienced tragic outcomes as a result.

HB 883 would address this gap by:

- Prohibiting AI platforms from representing themselves as behavioral health providers capable of delivering behavioral health services;
- Requiring AI platforms to detect and respond to suicidal statements or expressions of self-harm and provide referrals to appropriate human support; and
- Establishing meaningful penalties for platforms that fail to comply.

AI may serve as a valuable administrative aid, but it is no substitute for the therapeutic relationship between a trained professional and the people they serve. I urge the Committee to give HB 883 a favorable report, for the safety and protection of all Maryland residents.

Sincerely,



Laura Goldstein, LCMFT
Owner, Executive Director
Montgomery County Counseling Center