



MARYLAND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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February 16, 2026

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Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 412 Maryland Department of Health – Community Forensic After Care Program -
Established

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Finance Committee to report FAVORABLY on SB 412.

Conditional release procedures vary widely across states, from strict community monitoring to no oversight at all. In many cases, conditional release programs and community monitoring significantly reduces violent and general recidivism rates. Specifically, treatment continuity and adherence (e.g., medication stability) are significantly related to reducing recidivism rates for individuals with a mental illness and/or intellectual disability. Moreover, community monitoring programs provide regular dynamic monitoring, which helps identify risk factors, such as employment status and drug use, for points of intervention. In this way, these programs work to collaboratively direct individuals on conditional release to the appropriate resources to best support their care and recovery. Without these programs and the structured support they provide, individuals on conditional release, especially those with a mental illness and/or intellectual disability, are more likely to reoffend and, thus, start the cycle over again.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 412. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D., at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

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