

MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



February 20, 2026

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The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support: SB 774: Health Insurance - Plan Benefits and Coverage - Annual Reporting (Transparency, Reporting, Understanding, Timeliness, and Honesty (TRUTH) in Mental Health Coverage Act)

Dear Chairwoman Beidle & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1200 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS Supports: SB 774: Health Insurance - Plan Benefits and Coverage - Annual Reporting (Transparency, Reporting, Understanding, Timeliness, and Honesty (TRUTH) in Mental Health Coverage Act). This bill requires health insurance carriers in Maryland to annually report detailed data on how they cover and pay for mental health and substance use disorder services, and to make that information publicly available in a consumer-friendly way. The goal of the bill is to increase transparency, accountability, and enforcement of mental health parity.

Marylanders who may seek mental health treatment need reliable information regarding insurance coverage to help pay for their care. Our patients often discover far too late, so for example, their insurance plan has an inadequate number of providers and they must wait for months to find an in-network provider. This may be due to inadequate reimbursement to providers for mental health care as compared to other health care. This bill would make this type of information publicly available, allowing consumers and purchasers of insurance coverage to make better informed choices regarding insurance coverage for mental health services. As such, we urge a favorable report on SB774.

If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee