



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

January 27, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 96 – Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for 3 Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 96 – Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members.

SB 96 would amend Health-General Article, 7.5–210 to remove “an active” from the conditions of eligibility for the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program. In amending existing law, this bill broadens the eligibility for the grant program beyond active duty service members and their family members. The expanded definition aligns with Maryland’s Commitment to Veterans, which supports behavioral health coordination for all service members, veterans, and their families regardless of discharge status. In addition, by removing “active” from the eligibility definition, the eligibility is broadened to include national guardsmen as individuals serving in that capacity are only considered active if on active deployment orders.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Government Affairs, at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD
Secretary