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Senate Finance Committee

March 31, 2026

House Bill 772 – *Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization – Workgroup Establishment and Study*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports House Bill 772 with amendment.**

The amended bill establishes a temporary workgroup within the Maryland Health Care Commission to develop cost-based reimbursement methodologies for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, outpatient mental health centers, and independent outpatient providers. MedChi supports the sponsor's efforts to address patient access to mental health care by examining reimbursement rates and methodologies. MedChi shares the goal of making Maryland's behavioral health system sustainable in the long term, and we believe this bill will help ensure financial viability and access to mental and behavioral health services in Maryland.

House Bill 772 establishes a broad workgroup that includes legislators, state officials, behavioral health providers, hospitals, consumer representatives, and an actuarial expert, but it does not explicitly include a physician representative. Therefore, we respectfully request a minor amendment to add a MedChi physician to the workgroup membership. This will ensure direct physician input on cost drivers, staffing and supervision requirements, regulatory burdens, and the clinical realities of delivering behavioral health services.

Physician participation would strengthen the workgroup's recommendations by aligning cost-based reimbursement methodologies with real-world care delivery and patient outcomes. With its amendment noted, MedChi supports House Bill 772.

For more information call:

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