

TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Brandon Floyd
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs

HB772
Favorable

DATE: March 27, 2026

RE: HB772 Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization - Establishment

Johns Hopkins supports **HB772 Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization - Establishment**. This bill establishes a workgroup to develop transparent, cost-based reimbursement methodologies for behavioral health providers. This initiative is essential to addressing the pressing concerns surrounding access to behavioral health care in our communities.

Johns Hopkins has significant expertise in treatment and research of behavioral health disorders, offering a broad range of intensities of services and modalities of care. Our Department of Psychiatry is consistently ranked among the top programs in the United States for clinical care according to U.S. News and World Report. Across the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, we experience over 275,000 annual inpatient and outpatient behavioral health visits each year. As one of the largest behavioral health providers in the state, we witness firsthand the devastating impact these problems have on individuals, their families and the communities we serve. We are constantly exploring new options to meet the behavioral health needs of our patients.

The Johns Hopkins hospital-based outpatient mental health clinics provide comprehensive outpatient psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation services for children and adults living in the Baltimore area. Individual, group, marital and family therapies, psychosocial rehabilitation, and medication management are provided by a team of more than 170 full-time therapists, nurses, and attending psychiatrists. Community-based services are also available in schools and in patients' homes through the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). Individual treatment plans are developed according to each patient's needs.

As the Committee is aware, the landscape of behavioral health care is rapidly evolving, with increasing demands for services due to rising rates of mental health challenges and substance use disorders exacerbated by the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, our current rate methodologies have not kept pace with the necessary changes and innovations in service delivery.

This bill is a proactive step towards a more effective, equitable, and sustainable behavioral health system in our state. Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB772.