

**Maryland Association of School Health Nurses**



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 205 - Health Insurance - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders - Codification of Federal Requirements

**Hearing Date:** January 28, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *Senate Bill 205 - Health Insurance - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders - Codification of Federal Requirements*. The bill codifies federal requirements for behavioral health parity in coverage in state-regulated commercial plans. MASHN supports Maryland’s ongoing efforts to advance parity in behavioral health coverage because of our commitment to the health of Maryland students. According to the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 30% of youth in middle and high schools experience depressive symptoms.<sup>i</sup> Adequate insurance coverage is an important component of the strategy to address our youth’s behavioral health issues.

We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/yrbs/results/2023-yrbs-results.html>