



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 886 – Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification - Letter of Opposition

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for House Bill (HB) 886 - Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification. HB 886 would require the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) to provide coverage for services delivered by Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS) in any setting beginning January 1, 2027.

The Department began covering CPRS services through licensed community-based substance use disorder (SUD) programs in June 2023.¹ This coverage was established after extensive dialogue with stakeholders on how to best leverage enhanced federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In FY 2025, 3,969 Medicaid participants with a SUD received an individual CPRS service, and 2,159 Medicaid participants received CPRS services in a group.

An expansion of CPRS services to any setting and to include mental health diagnoses would have a significant fiscal impact. Statewide, there are currently 270 CPRS certified by the Maryland Addiction & Behavioral Health Professionals Certification Board (MABPCB). With expanded coverage across all payers, the Department conservatively estimates that as many as 300 CPRS total may become certified. Based on current utilization patterns, there remains significant capacity for CPRS to deliver services to Medicaid enrollees and individuals in commercial plans. Assuming Medicaid utilized 50 percent of available provider capacity, the Department estimates the fiscal impact of implementing HB 886 to be \$9.3 million TF (\$5.5 million FF, \$3.8 million GF) for FY 27 and \$81.9 million in TF (\$48.9 million FF, \$33 million GF) over a five-year period from FY 27 through FY 31.

¹ [PT 59-23 Medicaid Coverage of Peer Recovery Support Services in License Community-Based Substance Use Disorder Programs](#)

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meena Seshamani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary