

**TO:** The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair  
*House Health Committee*

**HB886**

**FROM:** Annie Coble  
*Assistant Director, Maryland Government Affairs*

**Favorable**

**DATE:** February 19, 2026

**RE:** HB886 Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification

---

Johns Hopkins **supports HB886 Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification.**

This bill expands the settings in which peer recovery specialists can be reimbursed for services by Medicaid and other insurers.

Johns Hopkins Health System utilizes peers in a myriad of settings including inpatient medicine services, emergency rooms, psychiatry units and outpatient opioid treatment programs. We have found peers play a vital role in the care and recovery of our patients. Our peers help patients find supportive treatment services based on their needs, offer a unique and valuable perspective on the recovery process, serve as role models, and provide a consistent point of contact for them throughout their treatment.

As the committee knows, hospitals play an important role in the behavioral health spectrum of care and being able to utilize all evidence-based treatment options, including peers, is important to delivering high quality care.

We see great value in being able to use peers in the emergency department as an early point of contact, for example, after an overdose. The current limitations on the allowable settings for which peers can be reimbursed have impaired our ability to grow the number of peers we employ. Currently, Johns Hopkins has needed to seek out other sources of support, such as grants, to cover these services.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB886.