

TO: The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
House Health Committee

FROM: Brandon Floyd
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs

HB1483
Favorable

DATE: March 9, 2026

RE: HB1483 Clinical Professional Counseling - Out-of-State Providers - Use of Telehealth for Continuity of Care

Johns Hopkins supports **HB1483 Clinical Professional Counseling - Out-of-State Providers - Use of Telehealth for Continuity of Care**. This bill permits counselors, who are licensed and in good standing in another state and who already have an established client-counselor relationship, to provide telehealth services to a client who relocates to Maryland for up to six months. We strongly support this targeted expansion because it provides flexibility to preserve ongoing therapeutic relationships at a time when disruption can be harmful. Furthermore, this bill maintains the appropriate limits and safeguards for counselors to practice across state lines.

Johns Hopkins is deeply committed to providing behavioral and mental health services. Across our four Maryland hospitals, thousands of patients are treated annually by teams of providers including counselors. This legislation is a practical tool that allows patients, who previously received counseling services, to maintain counseling services while enabling a warm handoff from the out-of-state provider to an in-state counselor.

Continuity of care is essential to effective mental health treatment. Allowing trusted out-of-state clinicians to continue care for a limited period reduces the risk of relapse, unnecessary emergency care, and gaps while a client secures local services. This is especially important for people with complex needs, those in rural or underserved areas, and members of transient populations such as students and relocating professionals. By allowing licensed out-of-state counselors to provide telehealth services for up to six months, the bill also strikes a sensible balance supporting patient-centered care and access, while allowing time for clients to establish local treatment if longer-term services are needed.

We urge the committee to support this measure as a practical enhancement to Maryland's behavioral health system which promotes stability and access.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **HB1483**.