

February 24, 2026

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 60,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

HB971 establishes a Workgroup to Study to Adoption of a Fee for Service Model for All Medicaid Services. This workgroup would examine the feasibility of FFS in Maryland. While the bill intends to study all Medicaid services, we believe explicit language to include behavioral health services in the study would be appropriate. Behavioral health services are often subject to unique regulatory requirements, so we would request the workgroup specifically evaluate the impact on behavioral health and substance use disorder services.

We would also suggest a rate-setting study be included in this workgroup's work as well. To ensure that a transition would not lead to provider shortages, we request a rate setting study be part of the evaluation.

Stephanie Slowly-Little
Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

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