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February 18, 2026

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The Hon. Heather Bagnall, Chair
House Health Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
House Health Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Pyramid Healthcare Testimony In Favor of House Bill 886 – An Act Concerning “Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification”

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Committee:

The Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. (“Pyramid Healthcare”) family of companies urges the Committee to favorably report HB 886, which would require the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (“Medicaid”) and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and managed care organizations to provide coverage for services provided in any setting by certain certified peer recovery specialists.

The Pyramid Healthcare family of companies is an integrated behavioral healthcare system serving Medicaid and commercial clients in nine (9) states across a continuum of residential and outpatient substance use disorder (“SUD”), mental health, autism, and eating disorder treatment services. We employ over 3,600 team members across our 80+ active facilities caring for over 14,000 unique commercial and Medicaid patients every day throughout our locations. With over 2,100 active beds throughout our system, we are one of the largest adult Medicaid residential SUD treatment providers in the country.

In Maryland, we operate five locations serving over 2,000 residents per year: a withdrawal management & residential treatment center and an outpatient treatment center in California; a withdrawal management & residential treatment center in Charlotte Hall; a withdrawal management & residential treatment center in Joppa; and a withdrawal management & residential treatment center in Bowie. In total, we have almost 275 licensed SUD residential treatment beds for adult Medicaid clients across the state. We also have two facilities in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia which are able to serve Maryland Medicaid clients in western Maryland.

We support HB 886 because it would expand access to certified peer recovery specialist services in any setting and require coverage through both the Maryland Medicaid and private health insurance. Peers are a proven, essential part of the recovery continuum, in all levels of care and in all communities. Ensuring coverage for peer services will strengthen engagement, improve continuity of care, and support long-term recovery outcomes for Marylanders.

We also support the bill's requirement that the Maryland Department of Health ("MDH" or "the Department") convene a workgroup to improve the certification process, including exploring reciprocity, which will help strengthen and grow Maryland's peer workforce. For these reasons, we request the Committee to favorably report HB 886 to the full House for further action.

Thank you for your support of behavioral health providers – including those in both substance use disorder and mental health – in Maryland and for considering our policy proposals and recommendations on behalf of Pyramid Healthcare. If we can provide any additional information or materials, please contact me at crosier@pyramidhc.com or 667-270-1582. In addition, we invite you or a member of the Committee or staff to reach out and schedule a visit to one of our Maryland locations sometime soon to learn more about our programs and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Collan B. Rosier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Collan B. Rosier
Vice President of Government Relations

CC: Members, House Health Committee
Alicia Altamirano, Assistant to the Chair