

February 25, 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.

As the use of artificial intelligence (AI) expands into various sectors, it is imperative that we establish clear guardrails to protect the unique and sensitive nature of the therapeutic relationship. This bill provides essential protections by ensuring that clinical care remains human-centered while allowing for technological efficiencies in administrative tasks.

Because AI does not offer clinical expertise, it is vital that AI not be utilized in a therapeutic clinical setting. This bill prohibits the use of AI for direct behavioral healthcare, ensuring that vulnerable patients are receiving care from licensed professionals who possess human judgement that cannot be replicated with technology.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

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

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