

# MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



February 20, 2026

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The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
Health Committee  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Oppose: HB 995:  
Health Occupations - Behavioral Health Care Providers - Use of Artificial Intelligence

Dear Chairwoman Bagnall & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1200 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS Oppose: HB 995: Health Occupations - Behavioral Health Care Providers - Use of Artificial Intelligence. MPS supports strategies to eliminate the use of artificial intelligence as a substitute for clinicians who provide behavioral health care services. While it is assumed that the intention of the bill is to stop the utilization of AI for this purpose, we have concerns that the language of the bill is not adequately specific and could potentially be detrimental to current practices. The incorporation of AI assistance in the delivery of health care has in some ways been beneficial. For instance, AI can be used to summarize scientific findings or synthesize data. AI is often imbedded in electronic medical record programs for AI-assisted note generation. When used in these ways, AI is tremendously beneficial, making the provision of care more efficient; we do not want to compromise those uses of AI. While we also want to end the practice of AI trying to mimic clinical interventions, we need to ensure that boundaries around the use of AI are not over-reaching thus limiting its practical uses.

MPS/WPS, therefore, ask this honorable committee for an unfavorable report on HB 995. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact Lisa Harris Jones at [lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee