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Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 774 - Transparency, Reporting, Understanding, Timeliness, and Honesty (TRUTH) in Mental Health Coverage Act

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 774, the TRUTH in Mental Health Coverage Act. This bill represents an important and necessary step toward addressing persistent gaps between mental health coverage on paper and the actual experience of patients and families seeking care. Despite existing parity laws, many individuals continue to encounter barriers such as inaccurate provider directories, limited network participation, delayed access to care, and uneven reimbursement. SB 774 directly addresses these concerns by requiring comprehensive, standardized reporting on how behavioral health services are delivered and covered across the State.

A key strength of this legislation is its focus on meaningful, disaggregated data that reflects real-world access. By requiring reporting across provider types, levels of care, geographic regions, and distinctions such as in-person versus telehealth services, the bill allows for a nuanced understanding of where systems are functioning well and where they are not. The inclusion of metrics related to network adequacy, utilization review, reimbursement, and access to evidence-based models of care provides regulators with the tools necessary to identify systemic barriers and promote accountability among carriers.

SB 774 also advances transparency in a way that benefits multiple stakeholders. Clinicians will gain insight into network participation and reimbursement patterns, policymakers will be better equipped to craft targeted reforms, and consumers will have access to clear, user-friendly information about their coverage options. By requiring public reporting and comparative dashboards, the bill ensures that data is not only collected but actively used to improve the system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House Health Committee to **report favorably on SB 774**. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted

Paul C. Berman, Ph.D.

Paul C. Berman
Licensed Psychologist