



TESTIMONY FOR HB0995 – Health Occupations – Behavioral Health Care Providers – Use of Artificial Intelligence – FAVORABLE

Bill Sponsors: Delegates Woods, Ivey, Kaufman, Pasteur, Patterson, Roberts, and Simmons

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0995 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our mission is to promote legislation that strengthens education, healthcare, public safety, environmental protection, and social justice—ensuring that every Marylander has access to the resources and opportunities needed to thrive.

HB0995 directly advances that mission by establishing clear, responsible guardrails for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in behavioral health settings. **The bill prohibits behavioral health care providers from using AI to directly deliver behavioral health care, such as assessments, diagnoses, treatment, counseling, or therapeutic communication, while allowing AI-supported administrative tools under specific, regulated conditions.**

This bill also requires providers to obtain informed consent from patients when using an AI-enabled system in ways that could materially affect clinical decision-making or patient-facing services. These provisions ensure that AI is used ethically, transparently, and in ways that protect patient autonomy and confidentiality.

These safeguards are both practical and urgently needed.

Behavioral health care relies on trust, human connection, and nuanced clinical judgment. While AI can support administrative efficiency—such as scheduling, documentation, or record management—its use in direct therapeutic interactions

raises serious concerns about accuracy, privacy, bias, and patient safety. HB0995 draws a clear line between supportive technology and clinical care, ensuring that Marylanders receive behavioral health services from trained, licensed professionals rather than automated systems.

By requiring informed consent, the bill also strengthens transparency and empowers patients to understand how their information is used. This is especially important given the sensitive nature of behavioral health records and the risks of data misuse or unauthorized training of AI systems.

HB0995 reflects a thoughtful, equity-centered approach to technology in healthcare. Communities already facing barriers to behavioral health services—including low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations—must be protected from unregulated or inappropriate AI use that could compromise care quality or exacerbate disparities.

HB0995 aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It strengthens public safety, protects patient rights, and promotes ethical, transparent, and human-centered behavioral health care. By establishing clear standards for AI use, this legislation ensures that innovation supports—not replaces—the essential work of behavioral health professionals.

We urge the Committee to support this thoughtful, necessary, and forward-looking legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB0995.**