

MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



January 30, 2026

OFFICERS 2025-2026

Ronald F. Means, M.D.
President

Tyler Hightower, M.D.
President-Elect

Michael A. Young, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Theodora G. Balis, M.D.
Council Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meagan H. Floyd

COUNCIL

Benedicto R. Borja, M.D.
Mary Cutler, M.D.
Mark S. Komrad, M.D.
Stephanie Knight, M.D.
Cynthia Major Lewis, M.D.
Rachna S. Raisinghani, M.D.
Taylor Scott, M.D.
Traci J. Speed, M.D., Ph.D.

EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRIST COUNCILOR

Melissa Lavoie, M.D.

RESIDENT-FELLOW MEMBER COUNCILOR

Matthew Brandt, M.D.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Jessica V. Merkel-Keller, M.D.
Carol Vidal, M.D., Ph.D.

APA ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Adefolake Akinsanya, M.D.
Elias K. Shaya, M.D.
Brian Zimnitzky, M.D.

MEDCHI DELEGATE

Enrique I. Oviedo, M.D.

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

Oppose: House Bill 316: Confidentiality of Medical Records - Definition of Medical Record

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 strongly oppose House Bill 316. This bill requires emails, voicemails, audio recordings, raw AI transcripts (unedited and edited), end-of-shift transfer notes and more to become part of the patient medical record, which current HIPAA guidelines requires that the patient has a right to access in its entirety. Giving patients access to all raw information and details that are used to create a final note could result in problems and confusion, and even unintentional harm to patients and providers. If the intention of this bill is to apply HIPAA confidentiality requirements to any notes, materials, etc. (electronic or physical) that can be associated with a patient, there needs to be a more effective way to accomplish this, without defining it as part of the medical record.

For the reasons noted above, MPS and WPS oppose House Bill 316. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com.

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