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**House Bill 915 – Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other
Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals**

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

**House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 25, 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 915- Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals. We respectfully ask for an amendment to the bill to include a representative of the Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA) serve on the Workgroup established by the bill's provisions.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association's (MMCOA) nine member Medicaid MCOs - that serve over 1.3 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program- support studying the gaps in the supply of diverse mental health providers, identifying impactful ways to increase the number of minority mental health professionals, strengthening access to high quality behavioral health care, and reducing health disparities in communities of color.

Given our role in providing care to those who often experience negative physical and behavioral health conditions stemming from health care inequities, and given the experience and knowledge that MCOs have in the health challenges facing those we serve, we respectfully ask that House Bill 915 be amended to include a representative of MMCOA to serve as a member of the Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals.

Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jbriemann@marylandmco.org.