



March 19, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
House Health & Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – SB 299: Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Honorable 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 strives 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 and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS and WPS support Senate Bill 299 (SB 299) as many Maryland children are all too often the victims of trauma, which may impact their mental health, their ability to function in school as well as their relationships with their families. Unfortunately, these children do not receive the mental health treatment that they desperately need.

Trauma-informed care represents an opportunity to infuse an understanding of traumatic experiences and the lingering impact of trauma into how service providers support positive adaptation and resilience. The Commission on Trauma-Informed Care established under SB 299 is a positive step for the state to take as it would coordinate a statewide initiative to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of State health services to benefit children, youth, families, and older adults throughout the state.

Therefore, MPS and WPS ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 299. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee