



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: 410-992-7732. www.marylandpsychology.org

February 25, 2021

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House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: HB1243 - Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements - Children and Young Adults - Report Modifications

Position: Support

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **HB1243– Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements - Children and Young Adults - Report Modifications.**

We support the aims of the bill including to improve knowledge of the age ranges, ethnic and racial breakout of children and young adults who receive particular behavior health services in a given year. We cannot begin to understand how well the State is doing regarding access to and quality of care for our diverse population unless we collect data that measure who receives what type of care for how long. There is substantial evidence nationwide to suggest that access to care is not uniformly available to ethnic and racial groups. We need to know how we are doing in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1243.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 1243. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or exec@marylandpsychology.org.

Sincerely,

Esther Finglass

Esther Finglass, Ph.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs