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COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
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February 22, 2022

The Hon. Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: HB 935 Health and Health Insurance – Behavior Health Services – Expansion
Letter of Support

Dear Chairperson Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports HB 935 Health and Health Insurance – Behavior Health Services – Expansion, also known as the Behavior Health System Modernization Act, which is scheduled for a committee hearing on March 9, 2022.

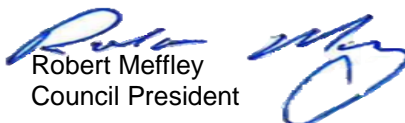
It is our understanding that this legislation will expand care coordination models like certified community behavioral health clinics; ensure reliable reimbursement for peers, measurement-based care and crisis services; and increase access to wraparound services for children and youth. The legislation will also support crisis services and improve call center staffing and coverage. Behavior health services for older adults will be increased in the state's area agencies on aging. Cecil County will directly benefit from the reduction of harm associated with substance use by expanding Good Samaritan protections for those who report an overdose or other medical emergency.

The Council supports this legislation because it will enhance the services that can be offered to persons experiencing mental health or substance use crisis in a more comprehensive manner.

If this legislation does not pass, the obsolete system will continue to fail to serve our population who have mental health or substance abuse issues.

The Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Health and Government Operations Committee consider a favorable report on HB 935.

Sincerely,


Robert Meffley
Council President

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