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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**SB 154**

**Public Health – Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database**

Good Afternoon Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Members of Finance;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 154, Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database. SB 154 requires the Department of Health to develop and implement a public awareness campaign to encourage the use of mental health advance directives.

It also requires the Behavioral Health Administration to study the feasibility and cost of establishing a centralized, statewide database of mental health advance directives.

This bill was previously filed as SB 994, in 2022 by Senator Addie Eckardt. It passed the Senate 44-0, however there was not enough time for it to pass the House

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 154.