



**Statement of the Maryland Federation of National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees**

**House Bill 804 - Certificate of Need – Psychiatric Health Care Facilities  
and Psychiatric and Mental Health Services – Exemption**

My name is Paul Schwartz and I am State Legislation Chair for the National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association, NARFE.

With the rise across this country in suicides, especially among our teens, let's do something to make mental health care more available not less.

With the incessant claims after every mass shooting in America, especially in our schools, that something needs to be done regarding mental health, let's make mental health care more available not less.

HB 804 is an attempt to do just that by exempting Psychiatric Health Care Facilities and Psychiatric and Mental Health Services from the Certificate of Need requirement and the restrictive bureaucratic burden it imposes limiting treatment accessibility.

Roughly ten percent of our state's older adults, for example, experience Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, while many older adults experience sub-clinical mental illness.

And let me emphasize this is not about standards. Standards for mental health care facilities should apply to facilities regardless of whether a Certificate of Need is issued or not.

At a time when there is a mental health care crisis in this country and a need to expand mental health care availability, please give a favorable report for HB 804.