



HB 1092 (SB 703) Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program – Establishment
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=HB1092&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS>
Health & Government Operations Committee

February 27, 2018

Support

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine, a professional society of physicians and associated health professionals in the field of addiction medicine; a chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

It has been said that “the ‘crisis system’ has been unofficially handed over to law enforcement, sometimes with devastating results.”

It is the nature of mental health disorders and substance use disorders that many people affected by them, end up in crisis.

In 2015 there were over 100,000 emergency room visits in Maryland for behavioral health problems, and that number that is growing.

But emergency rooms are not a cost effective or efficient setting to address these problems.

Instead of Emergency Departments, we can use Walk-in Crisis Services for many people .

Instead of Psychiatric Hospitalization, we can use Crisis Residential Best for many people.

Instead of Law Enforcement Intervention, we can use Mobile Crisis Teams for many people.

A Crisis Response system emphasizes delivering the most appropriate level of care in the most appropriate setting, with more care provided in the community.

An 24/7 Crisis Response System is an indispensable part of any system that delivers care effectively to persons affected by mental health and/or substance use disorders.
