



# Maryland Coalition of Families Advocacy Action Alert



We're 29 days into the 90-day Maryland General Assembly session and we've been busy! We had an incredibly successful, energizing, and empowering Family Day in Annapolis, where we were joined by **189 families and advocates** who shared their powerful personal stories in **52 meetings with 67 legislators**. But now its time to turn our attention to providing testimony on bills important to Maryland families who have a loved one with a mental health, substance use, or problem gambling challenge.

## And We Need YOUR Help!

Testifying before legislators in committee hearings is a crucial time in the lifespan of a bill! There are two ways to provide testimony - in writing or verbally either in person or virtually before the committee members. **Testifying is the way you can make your voice heard and impact the next steps a bill will take on its way to becoming a law!**

MCF's Policy and Advocacy Associate, **Ashley Tauler**, is standing by to help in any way so please don't hesitate to reach out to her if you are considering testifying either verbally or in writing and would like some support.

**Here are 5 bills that need your voice in the next 7 to 14 days.**

1. SB 93/HB 110-Utilization Review-Private Review Agents (Private insurance only): Have you been denied a claim with no explanation? How has this affected you?

2. **SB 124/HB 400- Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits Coverage and Reimbursement:**  
Have you wondered why we don't do annual mental wellness checkups just like an annual physical? How would this benefit you?
3. **SB0497/HB0736- Health Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Coverage - Opioid Reversal Drugs and Products (Accessing Narcan over the counter):** Has it been difficult for you to access Narcan for a loved one knowing this can be lifesaving?
4. **SB 0571/HB 0603- Maryland Age-Appropriate Design Code (Consumer Protection - Online Products and Services - Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code):** Are you worried about your kid's online safety? For example, has an app used your child's online history to share and promote content that you felt was inappropriate for their age? Or, has your child suffered from mental health issues, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, drug overdoses, etc., because of digital platforms/social media?
5. **SB 797/HB 903- Education - Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program and Fund – Established (Legal Access Bill):** Do you need access to an attorney/advocate for your child with special needs, but can't afford to pay someone to assist?

## Ready to Get Started?

Great! The first step is to create a My MGA account on the Maryland General Assembly's website through which you will submit written testimony or sign up to deliver verbal testimony. You can also track bills as they move through the process. Its quite simple to create an account and we've developed step-by-step instructions to help! Just click on the link below to get started!

[Learn How to Create a My MGA Account](#)

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If you don't already, please follow us on social media if you use it! We'll be sharing advocacy information through these platforms as well!



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