



# Maryland Coalition of Families Advocacy Action Alert

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What a busy Maryland General Assembly session so far! It's been **62 days** since the session began and MCF has elevated family voice on the **10 bills** we identified as priorities. We submitted **33 written or oral testimonies** and helped **12 families** write and submit their own testimonies!

We added one bill to our original list of 10. We were honored that Senator Will Smith reached out to ask for MCF to testify in support of his bill (**SB 1099**) which would ensure that Narcan is co-located with AED machines in all public buildings. This simple but critical piece of legislation could save countless lives and MCF was happy to lend family voice to support it.

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## MCF's Legislative Priorities Where Are They Now?

We're just under a month away from the close of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly and here's where we stand on legislation we've been watching and testifying about. Click on the bill number to see where they are in the legislative process.



1. **SB 93/HB 110** - Utilization Review-Private Review Agents (Private insurance only).
2. **SB 124/HB 400** - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance

- Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits Coverage and Reimbursement
  - 3. **SB 497/HB 736** - Health Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Coverage - Opioid Reversal Drugs and Products (Accessing Narcan over the counter)
  - 4. **SB 571/HB 603** - Maryland Age-Appropriate Design Code (Consumer Protection - Online Products and Services - Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code))
  - 5. **HB 903/SB 797** - Education - Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program and Fund – Established (Legal Access Bill)
  - 6. **SB 427/HB 1096** - Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program (Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS))
  - 7. **SB 165/HB 204** - Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training
  - 8. **SB 212/HB 1048** - Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations (support with amendment)
  - 9. **HB 933/SB 974** - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund Fees (Fund 988)
  - 10. **HB 1040/SB 876** - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Limited Behavioral Health Services
  - 11. **SB 1099** - Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings
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## **Elevating Family Voice Through Advocacy**

### **Part 2 of MCF's Mission**

The second part of MCF's mission is advocating for systems and policy change to improve the lives of Maryland's families and individuals living with behavioral health challenges.

We provide family voice to statewide committees and workgroups tasked with looking at behavioral health services and systems.

Our stories provide tangible context to the challenges families face when caring for loved ones with mental health, substance use, or problem gambling disorders.

We don't just elevate family voice in Annapolis. When this legislative season is over, MCF will continue to be in all the rooms across the State where there are discussions happening about families and their loved one's behavioral health needs.

***“Family Voice should be heard at all tables where decisions are being***

made!"

## Christi Green

Executive Director  
Maryland Coalition of Families

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## Ever Wonder How a Bill Becomes a Law?



Our families ask us all the time where their testimony falls in the process of a proposed bill becoming an enacted law. **Its a GREAT question!** We found this helpful step-by-step explanation of how a proposed piece of legislation winds its way through the halls of Annapolis to become an enacted law!

[How A Bill Becomes A Law](#)



[Email Ashley](#)

MCF's Policy & Advocacy Associate, **Ashley Tauler**, has been with the organization for more than two years, first as a Family Peer Support Specialist and now as the point person for all our policy and legislative advocacy work. Ashley is available to help any parent or caregiver find their voice and use it to improve the systems that impact their loved one with behavioral health challenges. Please don't hesitate to contact Ashley if she can help you!

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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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