



# Maryland Coalition of Families Advocacy Action Alert

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## Wrapping Up the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session

As we close out the 2024 Maryland General Assembly legislative season, we want to thank you for staying in touch and tuned in to the issues that impact people with behavioral health challenges and those who love them. Your support through written and oral testimonies and sharing your stories with us brought real-world impact to conversations with elected representatives and contributed to a very successful legislative session. We're proud of the bills MCF helped pass and are committed to continuing to advocate for measures that didn't advance as far as we hoped.

Below is a recap of the bills we supported this year.

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## MCF's 2024 Legislative Priorities Status as the Maryland General Assembly Adjourns

### Bills Passed and Sent to Governor Moore for His Signature!

1. **SB 165/HB 204** - Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training
2. **SB 212/HB 1048** - Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations (support with amendment)
3. **HB 933/SB 974** - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund Fees (Fund 988)
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 93/HB 110** - Utilization Review-Private Review Agents (Private insurance only). This bill was combined with its companion bill SB 791/HB 932 which was passed and sent to the Governor for his signature.
7. **SB 1099** - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings. This bill has passed both Chambers as of today and will be sent to the Governor.

### **Status of Remaining Bills**

1. **SB 124/HB 400 - Did not pass.** Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits Coverage and Reimbursement
2. **SB 427/HB 1096 - Did not pass.** Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program (Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS))
3. **HB 1040/SB 876 - Did not pass.** Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Limited Behavioral Health Services
4. **SB 497/HB 736 - Withdrawn.** Health Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Coverage - Opioid Reversal Drugs and Products (Accessing Narcan over the counter)

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## **What Happens Now?**

Just because proposed bills did not pass or were withdrawn by their sponsor, doesn't mean the fight is over. The time between the end of this session and the start of the next one in January 2025 is critical. This is the time to meet with elected representatives to begin discussing the importance of reintroducing a bill next season and finding ways to bolster support for it.

The work doesn't stop because the session ended. **In fact, often the best opportunity to speak with your legislator happens outside of Annapolis. Legislators attend community events, hold town hall meetings, and publish interim contact information so you can request an appointment outside of session, when they are less busy.**



Though the legislative season is ending, MCF's Policy & Advocacy Associate, **Ashley Tauler**, continues to monitor and contribute to conversations throughout the state about issues related to mental health, substance use, or problem gambling. If there is an issue that is important to you, please contact Ashley to discuss it further. MCF wants to be sure that we're on top of all the issues that impact the families we

Be sure to check out our monthly newsletter **Family Focus** which will contain information about legislation once enacted and opportunities for additional advocacy now that the session is over.

MCF is grateful for your partnership and support during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly! Thank 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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