



August 4, 2020

Hello MCA Members,

I hope this letter finds you well and safe. There are several announcements and action items in this letter. We continue to spread the word on legislation and assist MCA members on understanding action steps to support advocacy and change for the people and communities we serve. The Advocacy Committee is also ready to organize, expand, and advocate for the 20-21 MCA year!

Legislative Action Items:

The following bills do not currently have a Maryland elected official as a cosponsor. You can follow the links and take action on each. The elected representatives in Maryland can be encouraged to cosponsor the following bills with a letter/email from you.

Maryland elected officials:

Senate- • [Benjamin L. Cardin](#) • [Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.](#)

House of Representatives- [Andrew P. Harris](#) (R), [1st Congressional District](#) • [C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III](#) (D), [2nd Congressional District](#) • [John P. Sarbanes](#) (D), [3rd Congressional District](#) • [Anthony G. Brown](#) (D), [4th Congressional District](#) • [Steny H. Hoyer](#) (D), [5th Congressional District](#) • [David Trone](#) (D), [6th Congressional District](#) • [Kweisi Mfume](#),* [7th Congressional District](#) • [Jamin B. \(Jamie\) Raskin](#) (D), [8th Congressional District](#)

- ***In the Senate***, the Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2019, [S. 286](#) was introduced by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).
- ***In the House of Representatives***, the Mental Health Access Improvement Act, [H.R. 945](#) was introduced by Representative John Katko (R-NY) and Mike Thompson (D-CA)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Our **first** meeting for the 20-21 MCA year will be **Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:45 pm**. More info on how to join will be posted on the website: <https://www.mdcounseling.org/Advocacy> (*this page is in the process of being updated*).
- The **training** meeting for the Advocacy Committee will be on **Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 10:00 am**.

Activism Action Items:

- NAACP is having a **Virtual March on Washington** on August 27-28, 2020, to learn more and sign up: <https://2020march.com/>

- Stay tuned for how MCA is supporting the Virtual March on Washington
- The National Action Network is organizing the **NAN's Commitment to March: Get Your Knee Off Our Necks!**, to learn more and register: <https://nationalactionnetwork.net/register-for-nans-march-on-washington-get-your-knee-off-our-necks/>
 - Stay tuned for how MCA is supporting NAN's march

We look forward to encouraging change, sitting at the table to dismantle systemic injustices, standing at the door to challenge inequality, walking the path to decolonize minds, and utilizing research to demonstrate effective ways forward to a world we want to see and experience.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roni K. White". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Roni K. White, MS, NCC, LGPC

MCA Advocacy Committee Chair