



March 23, 2022

Dear Members of the Georgia State Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The Metro Atlanta Chamber strongly supports House Bill 1013, the Mental Health Parity Act, landmark legislation that would significantly improve Georgians' access to mental healthcare.

We believe addressing mental health is a critical aspect to a safe and prosperous Georgia, and we are encouraged that the Mental Health Parity Act includes several provisions that would improve public safety and support a healthy workforce by enhancing mental health resources. For instance, House Bill 1013 would:

- Implement a state network of co-response teams with at least one peace officer and one social worker to increase access to pre-arrest diversion
- Provide law enforcement and frontline responders with increased resources, training, and flexibility to treat individuals in crisis
- Establish a task force to help local communities keep individuals with serious mental illness out of jails and into meaningful treatment
- Increase Georgia workers' access to treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders

The Metro Atlanta Chamber enthusiastically supports the Mental Health Parity Act and respectfully requests you vote YES on House Bill 1013. We believe mental health and public safety are inextricable, and we applaud the Mental Health Parity Act for its innovative efforts to address public safety concerns while ensuring a healthy workforce through the provision of comprehensive mental health resources.

We appreciate this committee's efforts to continue making Georgia a healthier and more prosperous state and ask for your favorable consideration of House Bill 1013.

Sincerely,

Marshall Guest
Senior Vice President, Business Climate