



The Honorable Heather Bagnall *2024 Legislator of the Year Award*

Delegate Heather Bagnall was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2018, where she has represented Anne Arundel County Districts 33 and 33C. As chair of the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee, Delegate Bagnall spearheaded multiple successful legislative efforts in 2023 to expand access to critical mental health and substance use care.

Among her successes, Delegate Bagnall passed legislation authorizing Medicaid reimbursement for services delivered via the Collaborative Care Model. This evidence-based model is proven to improve the quality of behavioral health care delivered in primary care settings, which is where most individuals with mild to moderate mental health and substance use needs first seek care. She also passed a bill establishing a Behavioral Health Workforce Investment Fund, which will help to address Maryland's persistent behavioral health workforce crisis. Further, Delegate Bagnall's sponsorship of legislation restoring access to high-fidelity wraparound care for children and youth will expand important home- and community-based behavioral health care options for younger Marylanders and their families. These bills were priorities for MHAMD, the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition, and the Children's Behavioral Health Coalition. They are critical components in efforts to ensure access to care for every Marylander in need.