

We appreciate this committee and DVHA's awareness of the challenges in EDs and the unfunded care hospitals provide there every day.

This payment will help compensate current care in EDs, and we will continue to work with DMH and with individuals and families with lived experience to improve patient care. We also want to make sure legislators realize that this amount of funding during a pandemic and workforce crisis is helpful, but not transformational and will not solve the issue of ED wait times for individuals in mental health crisis. We continue to need alternatives to EDs, peer certification, statewide telehealth, workforce incentives for mental health professionals, and sufficient capacity throughout the system.

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