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**HB 666**

February 26, 2020

**TO:** Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 666 – Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 666.

Traumatic events experienced in childhood have a significant impact, and the consequences can affect the lifecycle of an individual. The original Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study and its myriad iterations (ie. Expanded ACEs, developed by the Philadelphia ACE project) demonstrated the impact of ACEs on individuals and entire communities, making high ACE scores a serious public health issue.

High ACE scores have been directly correlated to long-term negative health outcomes such as depression, heart disease, liver disease, trouble at school and work, financial stress and substance misuse and addiction.<sup>1</sup> The number of Baltimore City youth experiencing three (3) or more ACEs is nearly twice that of the state average.

One way to address trauma and negative health impacts is to screen for ACEs in youth within the medical provider community. Physicians and other frontline medical providers have the ability to meet with youth and families to determine the risk of high

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/cestudy/index.html>.

ACEs, provide resources and referrals, and capture data on the impact of ACE scores within youth.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 666.