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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 975**

**TITLE:**             State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health - School-Based Health Centers - Ombudsmen

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Cullison

**COMMITTEE:**      Health and Government Operations

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 26, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 975 – State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health - School-Based Health Centers - Ombudsmen. This bill would establish ombudsmen designated by the State Secretary of Health and the State Superintendent of Schools to serve as points of contact for school-based health centers for State assistance on technical issues.

Currently, responsibility for school-based health centers is delegated to staff who primarily serve other school functions, resulting in slow-moving technical assistance and breakdowns in communication. By establishing ombudsmen to oversee and advise the management of these centers, this bill would remove inefficiencies that are borne out of technical difficulties, specifically in areas of policy and billing. Improving billing mechanisms may also provide a slight increase in revenues for the County of around \$100,000.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 975. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.