



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4732

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 449 – Public Information Act – Revisions – Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of concern for Senate Bill (SB) 449, Public Information Act – Revisions.

This bill requires that the Board publish an annual report of Public Information Act (“PIA”) requests on its website. The Board currently does not maintain a tracking log of its PIA requests. Additionally, this bill decreases the response time for Board staff to adequately respond to PIA requests. The PIA is already restrictive, and this bill will create additional restrictions for overburdened staff.

Thank you for your consideration of the Board’s concerns regarding SB 449. The Board respectfully asks that you strongly consider this information and urges an unfavorable report on SB 449. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Danielle Vallone, Acting Executive Director, at 410-764-4734 or Danielle.Vallone@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,
DANIELLE VALLONE

Danielle Vallone
Acting Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.