



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 377 - Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 377 - Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment.

HB 377 would establish the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment and require the Commission to study matters regarding student behavioral health and mental health treatment and make recommendations on actions to improve current student behavioral health practices and programs. The Commission would be required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2022, and December 1, 2022.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, MDH unfortunately does not have the fiscal or personnel resources to implement this bill if it is passed. Many of MDH's current personnel have already increased their workload and absorbed additional tasks that are critical to the COVID-19 response. While MDH is grateful to the sponsor for amending the report due date to July 1, 2022, there is ongoing concern that many of our staff will still be engaged in COVID-19 response at that time and the fiscal/resource barriers remain.

We recognize and value the importance of this bill and its impact on Marylanders. As such, we respectfully request this bill be held and reintroduced in the 2022 Session. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor(s) and appropriate stakeholders in the interim.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 775-1996 or webster.ye@maryland.gov or Director of Governmental Affairs, Heather Shek, at (443) 695-4218 or heather.shek@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy