



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Anne Kaiser
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Kaiser 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 December 1, 2021, 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.

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 (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov or Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Shek at heather.shek@maryland.gov and at the same number.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy