

President Robert Meffley, District 1

Vice President Jackie Gregory, District 5

Councilman William H. Coutz, District 2

Councilman Al Miller, District 3

Councilwoman Donna Culberson, District 4



James Massey
Council Manager

County Council Office
410.996.5201
Fax: 800-865-0587

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton Maryland 21921

March 4, 2022

The Hon. Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: HB 1018 Public Safety and Behavior Health Improvement Act
Letter of Support

Dear Chairperson McIntosh and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports HB 1018 Public Safety and Behavior Health Improvement Act, which is scheduled for a committee hearing on March 8, 2022.

It is our understanding that this legislation targets state agencies of Health, Public Safety and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. Cecil County has immediate needs for more services in mental health and substance abuse. Our statistics are among the highest in the state for substance abuse. This legislation should improve our services by certifying peer support specialists, additional funding for regional training workshops and behavioral health screenings, and improving behavior health crisis responses that will save lives. Training public safety agencies should help law enforcement be more prepared to deal with mental health and substance abuse victims. The collection of data will help to determine program evidence of effectiveness, which is often hard to measure.

The Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Appropriations Committee consider a favorable report on HB 1018.

Sincerely,


Robert Meffley
Council President

Copy: Cecil County Delegation