



TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable Jill P. Carter

FROM: Christine K. Krone  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 732 – *Department of Juvenile Services and Maryland Department of Health – Inpatient Program for Children*

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The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this **letter of information** for Senate Bill 732.

Senate Bill 732 requires the Department of Juvenile Services and the Maryland Department of Health to establish a certain inpatient program for children who have been adjudicated delinquent and provide rehabilitation, comprehensive care, and holistic therapies that address the health, mental health, and substance abuse issues of children.

MDAAP acknowledges the importance of addressing the complex needs of children involved in the juvenile justice system. We commend the efforts to establish a program that focuses on rehabilitation, and comprehensive care, while promoting the well-being and successful reintegration of these children into society. MDAAP urges a coordinated effort among all juvenile-serving Departments and aligning this proposal with the existing State frameworks and initiatives, while also assessing current infrastructure to handle such a program. MDAAP looks forward to participating in the ongoing discussion.

**For more information call:**

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