

May 17, 2007

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 53 - *Residential Child Care Programs - Out-of-Home Placement - Standards for Staff and System for Outcomes Evaluation*.

This bill requires the Departments of Juvenile Services (DJS), Human Resources (DHR), Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Governor's Office for Children (OC) to develop and implement a system for outcomes evaluation of State-operated and supported residential child care programs for out-of-home child placements. The bill requires further that program providers collect and report information necessary for the evaluation system, and that data used shall remain confidential. The agencies must adopt regulations requiring residential program direct care staff to be at least 21 years old and complete a training program. Also, the agencies must develop standards for certification of direct care staff.

Senate Bill 177, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 53.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor