



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 1382 – Children in Out-of-Home Placement-Placement in Medical Facilities –
Letter of Information**

Dear Chair McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for HB 1382 – Children in Out-of-Home Placement-Placement in Medical Facilities.

The Department is working closely with our sister agencies, the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) on addressing this complex issue. The Department is committed to the following:

- Assistance in identifying adolescents currently in extended hospital stays or in danger of losing community/RTC placement due to behavioral issues;
- Assistance in developing plans for at-risk adolescents to preempt hospital placements;
- Providing expedited evaluation services to determine behavioral/developmental needs;
- Assistance in identifying existing capacity in RTC beds system-wide and determine appropriate placements based on acuity/disposition (court involved, developmentally disabled, etc.);
- Providing leadership level support to implement an interagency process to expedite/determine proper placements;
- Assistance in developing/expanding current RTC bed capacity through MOU's with private providers.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Deputy Secretary of Operations, Gregg Todd, at 410-767-4557 or gregg.todd@maryland.gov or Director of Governmental Affairs, Webster Ye, at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary