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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 26, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB 893; Washington County – Adult Public Guardianship Review Board -
Membership

Dear Delegate Clippinger:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, by a vote of 5-0, supports House Bill 893. It would alter the make-up of the membership of the Washington County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board.

The Guardianship Review Board is a board of professionals that serves an important function by reviewing guardianship cases and making recommendations to the Court. The Board is comprised of an interdisciplinary group of professionals with expertise in different aspects of health care, social work, legal expertise, and administration. For years, however, it has been very difficult in Washington County to recruit psychiatrists to serve on the volunteer board, as required by Family Law Article § 14-101. Therefore, the mental health field has been underrepresented on the board, to the detriment of persons served. The County believes that 14-101 should be amended to require one member of the board to be a psychiatrist **or psychologist**. This treatment has already been extended to St. Mary's County, and therefore the amendment to the Code would be very minor.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County respectfully urges the Committee to enact HB 893.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 
Jeffrey A. Cline, President