

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

March 4, 2021

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Lisa Hyle Marts, Deputy Director, Maryland Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
On behalf of The Office of the Attorney General

RE: [HB1122](#) –Criminal Procedure – Out of Court Statements – Child and Vulnerable
Adult Victims – **Support**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lisa Hyle Marts, and I am here today to voice the Attorney General's support for HB1122 (SB0776). I currently serve as the Deputy Director of the state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. This unit, which is predominantly funded by the federal government, is tasked with prosecuting both Medicaid Health Care fraud cases in our state as well as cases of abuse and neglect committed against the elderly and vulnerable adults.

I came to this unit almost 2 years ago with over 20 years of experience as a local assistant state's attorney. Much of my time as a prosecutor was trying cases of abuse and neglect against children. I served on the MD State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, received several awards for my work and was very active in child abuse education and prevention efforts. During my years of trial work, I utilized Criminal Procedure §11-304 successfully many times in court. This statute has been a very effective tool for child abuse prosecutors throughout the state, as it helps to strengthen our cases against child abusers and helps bring justice for our minor victims.

Maryland's Medicaid Fraud Control unit would greatly benefit from this new bill as it will extend that same protection to our most vulnerable adults and the elderly. It should be noted it still requires that the victim testify at trial, as it did in my previous child abuse cases however, it will allow trusted caretakers of this growing vulnerable adult population, the doctors, nurses etc., to testify as to the victim statements made to them about their abuse. This new statute would prove to be an invaluable tool that would enable prosecutors throughout the state to provide the courts and juries a better and clearer picture of the abuse that the vulnerable adult victims suffer.

I have made a career dedicated to serving and protecting the most vulnerable in our society, the children, the elderly, and the disabled. I feel it is my duty as a public servant to speak up for those that struggle to speak for themselves. I am sure you would agree, as public servants yourselves, there is no greater honor.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on HB 1122.

cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee