



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melynk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 163 – Health – General Article – References to Mental Health -
Letter of Support As Amended**

Dear Chair Peña-Melynk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 163 – Health – General Article – References to Mental Health.

As amended, SB 163 removes existing references to “mental hygiene” throughout Health General and replaces them with the more inclusive term “mental health.” Additionally, this bill requires regulatory changes for any MDH regulations which still utilize the phrase “mental hygiene” by July 1, 2027 and requires the Department to review and update public facing electronic materials as soon as practicable.

MDH is supportive of the use of more inclusive and equitable language throughout its regulations and appreciates the amendments to provide the Department with additional time for implementation to do a thorough and comprehensive review of Department regulations and electronic materials.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary