

May 12, 2015

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 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 662 – *Consultation, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent by Minors*.

This bill alters the health care providers who provide consultation, diagnosis, and treatment of a mental or emotional disorder to which minors who are 16 years old and older have the same capacity as an adult to consent. This bill also provides that the capacity to consent does not include the capacity to refuse consultation, diagnosis, or treatment for a mental or emotional disorder by specified health care providers for which a parent, guardian, or custodian of the minor has given consent.

Senate Bill 157, 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 662.

Sincerely,

Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.