

May 25, 2018

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, I have vetoed House Bill 454 – *Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Identifying Information*.

This bill requires a court to provide the Secretary of Health with identifying information regarding an individual who has been convicted of the murder, attempted murder, or manslaughter of a child. The bill alters, from 5 to 10 years, the period of time for which the Secretary of Health must provide birth record information to the Executive Director of the Social Services Administration (SSA); the 10-year period also applies to individuals whose identifying information has been provided by a court. The bill also adds a requirement for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to contract with an independent entity to develop a data collection process, as specified.

Senate Bill 490, 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 454.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor