

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Maryland Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 819 – *Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services – Executive Director – Appointment* and House Bill 287 – *Secretary of Health – Professional Qualification Requirement*.

Senate Bill 819 and House Bill 287 create a dangerous precedent and significantly undermine the voters and the Maryland Constitution, which entrusts the executive branch with making appointments to critical government roles. These bills impede the Governor’s constitutional duty to select and appoint the Secretary of Health and Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims. Every four years, Marylanders directly elect the Governor who is responsible for making critical decisions, including appointing key executive branch personnel responsible for public health and safety.

Senate Bill 819 requires the executive director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. The executive director would be the only agency head within the Governor’s Coordinating Offices that would be subject to Senate advice and consent. House Bill 287 undermines the Governor’s constitutional authority to select the Secretary of Health by requiring that potential appointees meet arbitrary criteria in order to be eligible.

These bills are nothing more than unnecessary powers grabs, and yet another instance of the legislative branch seeking to diminish the authority of the governor. My responsibility as Governor is to appoint the most capable and qualified people to

positions who will execute the vision that I have articulated to the people of the State. These pieces of legislation undermine that effort.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 819 and House Bill 287.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor