

Dr. Abrams_FAV_SB 490

Uploaded by: Abrams, Michael

Position: FAV

Michael T. Abrams, M.P.H., Ph.D.

Catonsville, Maryland, 21228

abrams.michael.t@gmail.com

410-446-5683

February 11, 2020

Maryland General Assembly
Senate Committee on Budget and Taxation
House Appropriations Committee
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Support for SB490/HB709 (Human Services- Youth Services Bureaus- Funding)

Dear Senators and Delegates:

I am a mental health services researcher from Catonsville, Maryland. I have a doctorate in health policy and a Master of Public Health degree as well. I use these credentials to conduct behavioral health services research specifically (*i.e.*, studies focused on brain and emotional health including psychiatric, neurologic, and substance use related diseases), and especially as it pertains to low income populations including persons covered by Medicaid, block grants, or those who are otherwise un- or underinsured. Accordingly, I am well versed in the biological, sociological, economic, and governance issues germane to the U.S. health care system, especially as it relates to the optimization of our national and local efforts to maintain behavioral health.

I am also a volunteer Board Member for a mental health center in my community known as The Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is one of 12 Youth Services Boards (YSBs) across Maryland. It currently serves about 60 unique individuals per month (500+ annually) via psychotherapy designed to help them cope with stressors that include school, family, and work-based challenges. Such difficulties are linked to problems like adjusting to a new classroom, marital discord, the death of a loved one, learning disabilities, anxiety about social functioning, and various other forms of depression or maladjustment.

The Lighthouse has a sliding fee scale to welcome all individuals and families in need including those with insufficient funds to cover their medical care. Moreover, the Lighthouse has a unique niche as a certified training facility for emerging therapists and as a treatment facility for prodromal problems (*i.e.*, for emerging issues that do not need full psychiatric and pharmacologic care). As the greater Catonsville/Woodlawn/Arbutus/Western Baltimore City region has a population well in excess of 150,000 persons and 50,000 families, I believe there is and will continue to be strong need for the Lighthouse as a mental health therapeutic resource. Indeed, it is not hyperbole to say that facilities like the Lighthouse represent a high-value community organization that helps to keep Marylanders resilient in the face of the many social and personal pressures we encounter.

Accordingly, I am writing this letter to you in support of the bill SB490/HB709 (Human Services- Youth Services Bureaus- Funding). I support that bill because it codifies existing law regarding funding for facilities like the Lighthouse with on-going funds and a modest (10 percent) increase- a rise in the investment which has not be seen for the last 20 years. From the perspective of the Lighthouse, it

would likely change our state revenue from \$91,000 per year to at least \$100,000. In human terms that would add roughly 100 one-hour therapy sessions-- a very modest gain given the community needs. Moreover, the bill promises similar or greater support to 11 other YSBs across the state which provide services like ours and others which specifically aim to reduce violence and crime, and to assist new immigrants. Accordingly, the \$1.8 million budgetary certainty afforded by this bill (with an actual fiscal impact that is only a fraction of that amount), presents itself as a well-placed investment for Marylanders overall.

Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact me form more information about this at any time.

Sincerely and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. Alvo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0490

Uploaded by: Byrne, Julia

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 490**

TITLE: **Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus - Funding**

SPONSOR: **Senator Peters**

COMMITTEE: **Budget and Taxation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 12, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 490 - Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus - Funding. This proposed legislation would repeal a requirement that the Department of Human Services (DHS) identify eligible youth services bureaus and estimate the amount of State funds to allocate to each youth services bureau (YSB). Instead, it would require the State to match funds for a youth services bureau to be paid directly to its private sponsor, and mandate that the Governor include at least \$1.8 million in the annual budget bill to YSBs.

Youth services bureaus provide a broad variety of invaluable resources to the children they serve, including crisis intervention, counseling, and training in technical skills. By adjusting the current standards for YSB funding and oversight, this proposed legislation guarantees that the individuals who rely on these services would not have to worry about funding issues.

Hundreds of young people in Baltimore County rely on YSBs. By guaranteeing their continued funding, Baltimore County provides these young people with a clearer path to a future as happy, well-adjusted members of society.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 490. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.

MCF_Geddes_Fav_SB 490

Uploaded by: Geddes, Ann

Position: FAV



SB 490 – Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus - Funding

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Date: February 12, 2020

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) helps families who care for someone with behavioral health needs. Using personal experience as parents, caregivers and other loved ones, our staff provide one-to-one peer support and navigation services to parents and caregivers of young people with mental health issues and to any loved one who cares for someone with a substance use or gambling issue.

MCF strongly supports SB 490.

Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) provide critical mental health and substance use services in their communities. They support youth struggling with mental health issues, offer family counseling, and provide substance use assessment, referral and treatment services. In addition, they consistently produce good outcomes – the Department of Juvenile Services evaluates the YSBs, and in the most recent analysis found that 99% of youth were not re-adjudicated within two years after ending treatment in a YSB.

Designating funding for YSBs within the Children’s Interagency Fund will guarantee that families can count on these programs. The four priority areas outlined by the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) do not match the population that YSBs are mandated in COMAR to serve. YSBs by statute are to provide individual, group and family counseling, information and referral services, crisis intervention including suicide assessments, and substance use assessments and referrals. These critical mental health and substance use services are not among the four current priority areas of the Governor’s Office for Children, which provides direction to the Local Management Boards.

By guaranteeing funding, and allowing dollars from the Children’s Interagency Fund to bypass the Local Management Boards, SB 490 will go a long way to ensuring that critical services remain available to youth with mental health and substance use challenges and their families.

We urge a favorable report on SB 490.

Contact: Ann Geddes
Director of Public Policy
The Maryland Coalition of Families
10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 234
Columbia, Maryland 21044
Phone: 443-741-8668
ageddes@mdcoalition.org

MHAMD_FAV_SB490

Uploaded by: Martin, Dan

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 490 Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus – Funding
Budget and Taxation Committee
February 12, 2020
Position: SUPPORT

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health, mental illness and substance use. We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 490.

SB 490 appropriates \$1.8 million annually for Youth Services Bureaus (YSB) – entities that are critical in Maryland’s efforts to prevent youth suicides and substance use disorders.

According to the 2018 State Plan of the Maryland Governor’s Commission on Suicide Prevention, the leading cause of death in 2016 for Marylanders aged 10-14 was suicide¹. Groups with an increased risk for suicide include LGBTQ individuals, youth with behavioral health conditions, individuals in the justice and child welfare systems, etc.² Youth Service Bureaus are tasked with providing prevention services to children with a behavioral health concern to prevent youth suicides and substance use disorders, and with a growing body of evidence indicating that early identification is our best hope of engaging these youth in treatment and lessening the severity of their illnesses, we must ensure YSBs have the funding they need to effectively reach Maryland children in need.

SB 490 ensures that YSBs receive stable funding to connect children and youth with behavioral health concerns to effective preventative services. They provide services for disconnected youth, work to address youth and family violence, provide youth mental health and addiction treatment services, and they serve as an intermediary to redirect youth offenders away from the juvenile system. Yet despite demonstrating positive outcomes, there have been several recent closures of YSBs, which reduces the services available to youth with behavioral health needs.

For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 490 and urges a favorable report.

¹<https://health.maryland.gov/suicideprevention/Documents/2018%20State%20Plan%20on%20Suicide%20Prevention.pdf>

² *Id.*

Greenbelt CARES YSB_FAV_SB 490

Uploaded by: Park, Liz

Position: FAV



**Testimony submitted to the Senate Budget and Tax Committee
February 12, 2020**

Support: SB 490 – Human Services – Youth Service Bureaus - Funding

My name is Dr. Liz Park, Director of Greenbelt CARES Youth Services Bureau and Chair of the Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureaus. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about the importance of this bill that codifies the designation of funding for Youth Services Bureaus, something this legislature did for many years in recognition of the importance of maintaining this network of mental health and prevention services.

As you know, Youth Services Bureaus are codified in Maryland law within the Department of Juvenile Services statute to prevent juvenile delinquency and family disruption and promote positive youth development. YSBs have successfully been providing such early intervention/prevention counseling to thousands of at-risk youth and families annually for over 40 years.

As you know, YSBs are a longstanding partnership between state government and local governments where every state dollar generates an additional \$8 in services. Continuing this partnership makes good fiscal sense.

I am here to address a concern we have heard that designating these funds will take away local control. We disagree.

- Since 2015, per the Governor's Office for Children's (GOC) NOFA requirements, LMBs have been strongly encouraged, and at times required, to shift funding away from behavioral health/prevention for all youth to the funding of specific priority areas focused on specific populations of youth.
- GOC has notified jurisdictions of their intent to make all the funding dollars competitive, rather than preserving base funding for jurisdictions based on population formulas.

We see these actions as limiting local decision making.

We are looking for stable, reliable funding for the important prevention and intervention work we do with Maryland's youth and their families. We believe that designating these funds for mental health and prevention services guarantees jurisdictions the availability of these programs and ensures that these long-standing state and local government partnerships continue.

We ask for your support of this legislation, as it is even more urgent to protect these critical, effective, mandated services to Maryland's troubled youth and their families and keep them on a path to success.

MAYSB_FAV_SB 490

Uploaded by: Park, Liz

Position: FAV



"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"

Senate Budget & Tax Committee

February 12, 2020

Senate Bill 490 - Human Services - Youth Services Bureaus - Funding

SUPPORT

Senate Bill 490 will secure existing funding for mental health and delinquency prevention services for at-risk youth and their families. The bill:

- Creates a line item in the State budget for Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) at a statewide total of \$1.8 million, which was the level of funding earmarked through budget language by the legislature for this purpose in fiscal years 2011 through 2017;
- Requires a minimum of \$100,000 be awarded to each YSB, which allows for expansion of services into additional jurisdictions;
- Continues the current process that directs the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to approve YSBs; and
- Allows money from the Children's Interagency Fund to bypass Local Management Boards at the direction of the local government providing the matching funds.

What are Youth Service Bureaus?

Maryland's YSBs are State and Local Government Partnerships that provide a safety net of effective prevention services to address the mental health concerns of children and adolescents. YSBs are established in the Human Services article of the Maryland Annotated Code (§ 9-233) and regulated under COMAR (16.17.01). YSBs currently receive funds from the Children's Interagency Fund, passed through Local Management Boards that submit proposals to the Governor's Office for Children.

Youth Service Bureaus are Effective

DJS annually conducts a two-year follow-up study to determine the effectiveness of YSBs in diverting youth from deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system. The most recent analysis, released in January 2020, demonstrated that **99% of youth served were not re-adjudicated within 2 years after ending treatment at a YSB.**

(over)

State Funding Leverages Other Funds

Every \$1 in State funds leverages an additional \$8 from county governments, municipalities, and private sources for YSB services.

Youth Service Bureaus Provide Essential Interventions

- Youth Mental Health Services (for depression, suicide, anxiety, trauma, etc.)
- Youth & Family Violence Services
- Support to Disconnected & Transition-Age Youth
- Substance Use Assessment, Referral and Treatment Services
- Services to Immigrants

Over the last 4 years, several YSBs have closed or reduced services due to budget reductions and funding uncertainties. This has left youth and families in those communities without access to these critical resources. This bill re-establishes the State's commitment to support this network of prevention and mental health services to children.

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 490.

Respectfully Submitted:

Liz Park, PhD
MAYSB Chair
lpark@greenbeltmd.gov

OPD_Support_SB490

Uploaded by: Shapiro, Melanie

Position: FAV



POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB 490
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: February 12, 2020

Youth Service Bureaus serve an important role in our communities by providing services to at-risk or court involved youth and preventing further court involvement and recidivism. According to the most recent DJS analysis of the outcomes of youth served by the Youth Services Bureau, 99% did not reoffend within 2 years of ending their treatment with the Youth Services Bureau. We should invest in services and programs that work for our youth and their families and prevent court involvement. The YSBs outcomes demonstrates their effectiveness. We support SB 490 in that it would ensure that the YSBs can continue to provide necessary services to Maryland's youth and prevent further juvenile justice system involvement.

Wendy Wilcox_FAV_SB 490

Uploaded by: Wilcox, Wendy

Position: FAV

Testimony submitted to the Senate Budget and Tax Committee
February 12, 2020
Support Senate Bill 490

I am Wendy Wilcox, Director of the City of Bowie's Youth Services Bureau and Vice Chair of the Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureaus. Thank you for the granting me the time to speak about how SB490 will benefit Maryland youth and their families.

Bowie Youth & Family Services has been serving our community since 1971. We provide counseling services, parenting classes, psycho-educational groups, crisis intervention services, mentoring, school-based life skills and other programs for hundreds of local youth each year. Our programs are effective, and (literally) save lives.

Bowie, along with the other Maryland Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs), was initially established through a federal prevention grant in the early 1970s. When the federal grant ended, the State of Maryland designated monies within the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to continue funding of YSBs. A local match requirement was set at 25%. Although there have been occasional cuts in times of economic stress, this state-local partnership (in our case, between the state of Maryland and the City of Bowie) generally worked well by creating a steady funding stream through which YSBs could successfully assist families in need without interruption.

As this state-local partnership began, YSBs were specifically regulated under COMAR 16.07.01. Under COMAR, YSBs were mandated to deliver counseling, referral, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to at-risk youth and their families. COMAR charged DJS with monitoring all YSBs' compliance with regulatory requirements, including program effectiveness, through annual site visits. This monitoring arrangement continues to the present.

In 2006, change occurred. Funds previously designated in the Children's Interagency Fund (CIF) to go directly to YSBs were eliminated. This change resulted in us having to come to you to protect these funds, something the General Assembly did through Budget language for many years. Since 2015, the funding stream has become even more complicated and limited and created a situation of uncertainty that has been ongoing. To compound the matter, YSBs had to absorb an overall state funding cut of 10% in FY2010; these dollars have never been restored.

In the last five years, there has been an erosion of local control of the CIF funding that flows through LMBs. The change in focus to a limited number of priority areas in 2015 necessitated a shift in how LMBs and YSBs are permitted to use state funds.

We very much appreciate our positive relationships with all parties in both our state funding agency and our LMBs. However, the sum of changes in the last decade have created budgetary uncertainty almost yearly, so that our ability to provide services for all youth who need them is at risk. As it stands, several YSBs have closed because of financial stress.

This legislation, if passed, would enact a return to designated funding for the critical help that YSBs provide to struggling youth in our communities, just as the General Assembly has a history of doing. Please vote in support for SB490.

Pam Brown_UNF_SB490

Uploaded by: Brown, Pamela

Position: UNF



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

February 12, 2020

**SB 490 Human Services - Youth Services Bureaus
Letter of Information**

Dear Chairmain Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee,

The Maryland Association of Local Management Boards is comprised of 24 local organizations, the core purpose of which is to improve outcomes for Maryland's children, youth and families. Every Local Management Board (LMB) provides a unique set of outcomes-focused programs to meet the needs of the communities they serve. We work to end hunger, support early childhood initiatives, divert juveniles from the criminal justice system and keep children in school.

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, we offer information and a few questions about the proposed legislation. If passed, it would repeal a requirement that the Department of Human Services identify eligible youth services bureaus and estimate the amount of State funds to allocate to each youth services bureau; require State matching funds for a youth services bureau to be paid directly to its private sponsor; require the Governor to include at least \$1,800,000 in the annual budget bill for youth services bureaus and provide for the allocation of the required funds.

With limited resources, every dollar counts. Through local decision-making Local Management Boards are implementing effective solutions that bring revenue to our communities, create jobs, ease budget pressures and ensure that vital services for our citizens are provided with positive results. These cost-effective approaches improve the lives of our local children and families. As this occurs our communities become stronger. Such high stakes require us to adhere to high standards in program performance, outcomes and efficient utilization of monetary resources because we are working to help the people who live close to us. There is a need for increased funding for children and family programs in all of our communities. It is imperative that any funding put forth for this purpose be a priority of the community it will be serving, has local buy-in, is effective and is smartly expended.

Specifically, we seek more information around the following issues:

- **How will children be better off if this action were passed?** Local Management Boards are sticklers for results and ultimately making sure that any strategy implemented makes children and families better off because of the service provided. Detailed performance measurement is



necessary in every program. Does this bill require any measurement of Youth Service Bureaus' performance?

- **What added value will this action bring to Maryland?** Several Local Management Board Directors in the association note that the Youth Service Bureaus are doing a good job in their community. Will this legislation provide any additional value? In other words what will the passing of this bill create beyond what is already happening without it?
- **Was local input sought in the formation of this legislation?** Local Management Boards were established by law to assess community needs and gaps in services then work with the local community to create services and programs that fill those needs. We are fearful that this bill ignores the input of the consumers it aims to serve.
- **Will this bill cut funding for other necessary services in local jurisdictions?** The association has grave concerns that the result of this bill may ultimately move money away from other programs that are equally or more necessary in local jurisdictions.
- **Is this bill fair for other providers of children and family services?** Will this action create an unfair advantage? The State and local jurisdictions have policies to prevent unfair competition for government resources. It is a concern that funding for a particular vendor will establish an unfair disadvantage for other equally competent providers of service.

Thank you for your shared commitment to protecting Maryland's most vulnerable children. If the result of this bill is moving money out of the Children's Cabinet fund, it will create negative consequences in local communities. Those consequences could include reduced services for Children and undermine the hard work, commitment and passion of local leaders, parents, students and many others.

The Maryland Association of Local Management Boards encourages local power through a collective voice that result in stronger, healthier and happier children and families across Maryland. It is within that vision that we consider the pros and cons of this bill. We ask you to consider funding needs across all sources when it comes to caring for the children and families in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela M. Brown".

Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D.
Association Co-Chair
Executive Director
A.A. Co .Partnership for Children, Youth & Families
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 103
Annapolis, MD 21401

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Clark".

Michael R. Clark
Association Co-Chair
Queen Anne's County Community Co.
Partnerships for Children & Families
104 Powell St.
Centreville, MD 21617

DBM_INFO_SB490

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 490 Human Services-Youth Services Bureau-Funding (Peters, et al)
STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 12, 2020

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

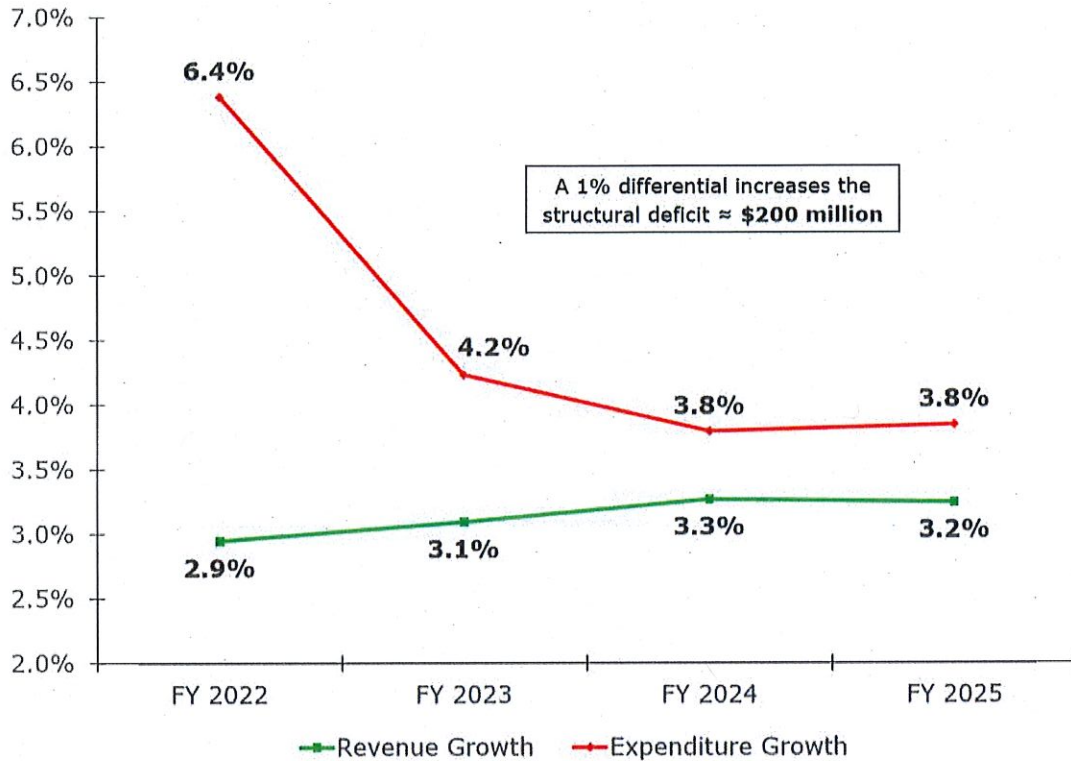
SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 490 mandates an annual appropriation of \$1.8 million to fund Youth Services Bureaus (YSB), with each YSB receiving at least \$100,000. YSBs who serve more than one jurisdiction shall receive at least \$100,000 for each local jurisdictions providing matching funds.

EXPLANATION: DBM's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on whether the aggregate increased spending is sustainable when spending growth continues to exceed revenue growth.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and strives to create a structurally balanced budget, in which the growth in spending is less than the growth in revenues. Actions by the General Assembly to increase entitlement spending levels makes it exceedingly difficult for the Administration to achieve structural balance.

The FY 2022 General Fund forecast shows spending growth of 6.4%, whereas revenue growth is forecast to be 2.9%. Growth in State spending will outpace otherwise healthy revenue growth not only next year, but also for the foreseeable future. The result is a short and long-term structural gap that will continue to strain State resources until the underlying causes have been resolved.

Future Spending Outpaces Revenue Growth



Source: Department of Budget and Management, FY 2021 Budget Highlights Book, Appendix F (January 2020)

General Fund Budget Outlook Fiscal 2022 - 2025

	Est. 2022	Est. 2023	Est. 2024	Est. 2025
Cash Balance	-\$833	-\$1,135	-\$1,201	-\$1,298
Structural Balance	-\$701	-\$905	-\$984	-\$1,071

Department of Legislative Services, January 2020 Fiscal Briefing

For FY 22 – FY 25, the cumulative impact of an ongoing imbalance between spending and revenues is a \$3.6 billion structural gap. Our structural budget problem reflects a spending problem; not a revenue problem.

The ever-increasing use of mandates and entitlement spending by the General Assembly is a more recent practice, making the State's structural budget deficit a chronic challenge. According to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), 70.2% of the FY 2020 General Fund allowance is mandated or entitlement spending.

Until we achieve long-term structural balance, programs cannot rely on a consistent funding level. Constituencies for these proposed programs or enhanced spending bills should be forewarned that passage

of this legislation does not guarantee future funding. Whatever specific funding is mandated will likely be repealed or otherwise modified in a subsequent Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) – this action is necessary to ensure a constitutionally required balanced budget in the next fiscal year.

The Administration is cognizant of the downside risks facing our economy and, in the FY 2021 Budget, has set aside \$1.3 billion in reserves. The Rainy Day Fund balance is equal to 6.25% of revenues, \$48 million more than recommended by the Spending Affordability Committee (SAC). Moody's Analytics has recently advised of a slowdown in employment growth in the latter part of FY 2021, which DLS estimates would add \$241 million to the structural budget gap in FY 2021 and \$419 million in FY 2022. Historic increases in funding for both K-12 education, as proposed by the Kirwan Commission, and school construction will further aggravate the budget gap.

The 2019 SAC commentary encourages a cautious fiscal approach -- **“Out-year fiscal stress is anticipated despite the expectation that personal income and employment will continue to grow steadily, and entitlement and prison caseloads will hold steady or decline. An imbalance is forecast before accounting for any recommendations from the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.”**

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**