



DATE: February 26, 2020

BILL: House Bill 847: State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chairman Pendergrass,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of information for House Bill 847: State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs. In evaluating this bill, please consider the following:

- MDOD is currently organized by policy domain rather than by specific disability groups and/or communities.
- MDOD policy domains are: community living, criminal justice, emergency preparedness, employment, education, health and behavioral health, housing, interagency affairs, technology, and transportation. The department also has a constituent services coordinator.
- MDOD could accommodate an autism-specific coordinator but this may lead to a broader reorganization to ensure parity across our programs and services.
- The State Coordinator for Autism Strategy position could be helpful in coordinating advocacy and volunteer efforts throughout the State. The position could also reduce the amount of duplicative work across government agencies and nonprofits.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary