



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary*

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 1530 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Provision of School Psychology Services – Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of opposition on House Bill 1530 (HB 1530) – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Provision of School Psychology Services and requests that the Committee report this bill unfavorably. **The bill would have an annual fiscal impact of \$3.9 million GF without a federal match. We also concur with the bill’s fiscal note, and recommend the Committee consult it for further information.**

Maryland currently reimburses for psychology services delivered by Board-licensed psychologists. School psychologists are not required to be licensed as they are certified by MSDE to provide a set of services within a school setting. To receive reimbursement for services through federal match, a provider must meet the State’s criteria for licensing, certification, and service documentation, consistent with all other Medicaid providers. Because school psychologists do not currently meet this threshold, there is no federal match and general funds are required for the full cost.

The Department of Legislative Services estimates that approximately 12% of the 440,846 children aged 5-18 may require assessment and further evaluation by a school psychologist under an IEP, resulting in the \$3.9 million full year fiscal impact beginning in Fiscal Year 2022.

If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please contact Webster Ye, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary