



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 2, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1243 – *Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements – Children and Young Adults – Report Modifications*

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1243.

House Bill 1243 requires the annual report on behavioral health services for children and young adults that is done by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to include information related to outpatient and substance-related disorders program services and behavioral health services provided through telehealth. The data in the report is to be grouped by race and ethnicity. The legislation also requires the Social Services Administration (SSA) to provide BHA with information related to voluntary placement agreements (VPAs) for children and young adults, including information relating to agreements requested for children with a developmental disability and the type of placement recommended for agreements that were approved.

The additional information required to be reflected in the report will provide a more comprehensive assessment of the behavioral health challenges and need for services experienced by Maryland's children and young adults. The requirement for SSA to provide BHA information on VPAs will enhance cross agency communication, assist in evaluating the needs of these children and families to prevent VPAs, and better inform BHA on the need for services and resources for many of Maryland's most challenged youth and families. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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