



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 174 – Mortality and Quality Review Committee – Duties, Reports, and Data – Sunset Extension – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 174 – Mortality and Quality Review Committee – Duties, Reports, and Data – Sunset Extension.

The Mortality and Quality Review Committee (MQRC) reviews the deaths of individuals in programs or facilities operated, licensed, certified, or approved by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) within MDH. The MQRC's primary goal is to identify patterns and systemic problems within the DDA and BHA provider community, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Health regarding actions to prevent avoidable injuries and deaths, and to improve quality of care.

The proposal would extend the sunset of the MQRC from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2032 and allow for the continuation of the very important work and data analysis being done by the MQRC. As this committee is doing important work that provides valuable information related to improving quality of care, MDH respectfully requests the committee return a favorable report for SB 174.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Heather Shek, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at (443) 695-4218 or [heather.shek@maryland.gov](mailto:heather.shek@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis R. Schrader".

Dennis R. Schrader  
Secretary