



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Room 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. Smith
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Room 2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 406 – Children in Out-of-Home Placements – Placement in Medical Facilities

Dear Chair Guzzone and Chair Smith:

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 406 – Children in Out-of-Home Placements – Placement in Medical Facilities (HB 406). The Commission appreciates the intent of this bill and commends the sponsor for his commitment to this important issue.

HB 406, as amended by the House, would accelerate the removal of Children in Need of Assistance from medical facilities into suitable alternative placements. The bill also establishes a new Foster Care Support Fund (the Fund) to be administered by the CHRC, as well as a Task Force to Examine the Placement of Foster Children in Emergency Departments that will study this topic and make a number of policy recommendations.

Since its inception in 2005, the CHRC has awarded over 600 grants to serve vulnerable populations throughout the state, but we have limited experience in grants that specifically serve children in the foster care system. For this reason, the CHRC would respectfully request that the bill be amended to remove the designation of the CHRC as the Fund's administrator. Instead, we request that the bill instruct the Task Force to make recommendations as to which state agency is best suited to administer the Fund.

The Commission appreciates your concern for the unmet needs of children in our state's foster care system and looks forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Luckner
CHRC Executive Director
cell (410) 299-2170

cc: The Hon. Kirill Reznik, Maryland General Assembly
The Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission
Heather M. Shek, JD, MS, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Maryland Department of Health