



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

January 26, 2022

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

**RE: HB 32 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record
– Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 32 – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record.

HB 32 will allow a Petition for Emergency Evaluation (petition) to be in the form of an electronic record. Quick decisions have to be made based on the clinical information in a petition, therefore immediate access is crucial. The ability to process a petition in the form of an electronic record will streamline and modernize the emergency petition process, create efficiencies in information sharing, and promote timely mental health evaluations.

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.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary