



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Karen Lewis Young

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 24, 2023

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 573 – *School Health and Vision Services – Screenings and Eye Examinations*

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC submits this **letter of information** for Senate Bill 573.

MACHC appreciates the intent of the legislation and provides this letter of information solely as a matter of clarification and to ensure that if the bill moves forward, it is appropriately amended to ensure the program is under the purview of the school health program. Several MACHC members operate school based-based health centers. As such, school-based health centers are not located in every school and have a regulatory structure and service organization that differs dramatically from the school health program of each individual school. The bill, as drafted, places the vision screening program under the school-based health center program at MSDE instead of the school health program where it would apply to all schools.