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Caroline, Cecil, Kent, and
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MINORITY LEADER
—

Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Rules Committee
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Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics

Legislative Policy Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Melony Griffith

Finance Committee

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

RE: Senate Bill 498 Rural Health Collaborative Pilot Repeal and Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition Funding

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 498 allows the Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition to continue the important work of the Rural Health Collaborative that was initiated by this committee in 2018. At that time, a Maryland Department of Health workgroup recommended a collaborative to develop and support a rural health complex or community-based health care services for the Mid-shore. Senate Bill 1056 tasked the Collaborative with advancing health initiatives of rural healthcare care delivery in the five counties of the Mid-Shore: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties. The Collaborative and now the Mid-Shore Health Coalition has helped to address disparities and lack of healthcare coverage in the Mid-Shore.

In 2019, the Governor provided annual funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the implementation of these rural health initiatives and under this bill, this funding will continue under the Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition to continue these efforts.

I have Kent and Queen Anne's County Health Officers here to expand on these initiatives and pressing healthcare issues in the Mid-Shore Region.

I ask for your favorable consideration.