



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 255 – Public Health – Home- and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth – Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended on Senate Bill (SB) 255 – Public Health – Home- and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth.

SB 255 requires MDH to expand access to and provide reimbursement for wrap-around services delivered under a high-fidelity wrap-around model under the 1915(i) model or a mental health case management program, as well as intensive in-home services delivered by providers using family-centered treatment, functional family therapy and other evidence-based practices under the 1915(i) model, and at least one pilot program using value-based purchasing for case management services. It also requires the Behavioral Health Administration to fund a total of 100 slots in the mental health case management program in Fiscal Year 2024 for children or youth at-risk for out-of-home placement who are not eligible for services, which represents a 25 slot increase above those funded today.

MDH looks forward to improving access to services provided under innovative waiver programs such as the 1915(i) model for Maryland Medical Assistance program enrollees. The report required by this bill will help MDH assess the model's status and inform efforts to enhance enrollment.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs, at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary