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Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0576 – Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support HB 0576 - Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs. The hearing on this legislation was held on February 14, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is requiring a peace officer, when the peace officer receives a petition for emergency evaluation for an individual, to transport the emergency evaluatee to a nearby emergency facility, rather than the nearest emergency facility; authorizing a psychiatric nurse practitioner to evaluate an emergency evaluatee for purposes of involuntary admission; requiring each county to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program and so forth.

This bill will assist our public safety officials to quickly address the needs of an individual and to get them the mental health care they may need in a time of an emergency. Cecil County strongly supports this legislation.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully request that the Health and Government Operations Committee send a favorable report on HB 0576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hornberger".

Danielle Hornberger
County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Gregory".

Jackie Gregory
President of County Council