



March 28, 2025

Committee Chairman Will Smith

Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 2140

RE: HB 1480– Appropriations– Child Advocacy Centers – Continuity of Care Standards for Healthcare Professionals and Reports of Violations

POSITION: **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1480 - *Child Advocacy Centers – Continuity of Care Standards for Healthcare Professionals and Reports of Violations*. We respectfully request that this committee return an **unfavorable** report on the bill for the reasons set forth in this letter.

As a mental health services provider, we are required to uphold the licensure requirements set forth by the State of Maryland. As a partnering agency for child advocacy centers, we accept referrals for services and respond accordingly. We do not share specific employment details of our providers with the child advocacy center. Employment changes are not communicated with CACs however, we agree via Memorandum of Understanding that we will provide licensed and appropriately supervised professionals to provide services for CAC clients.

If a licensed mental health professional that has been treating a child victim is no longer able to treat that child victim due to termination, change in job, or any other reason, the licensure standards established in COMAR governing each professional's licensure establish the continuity of care requirements. Licensed mental health professionals have continuity of care requirements governed by their professional licensure requirements. For example, **Md. Code Regs. 10.36.05.07 outlines the continuity of care required of psychologists or psychology associates** in the event that there is a termination of services. **Social workers** have similar requirements under **Md. Code Regs. 10.42.03.03**. The Board of Examiners of Psychologists as well as the Board of Social Work Examiners

224 North Center Street, Room 102 – P.O. Box 1563 – Westminster, MD 21158 – Office Phone (410) 857-0900 – 24 Hour Hotline **(410) 857-7322**

www.rapecrisiscc.org/www.facebook.com/RCISofCarrollCounty

investigate complaints against professionals licensed under their authority. Each Board's complaint process and investigation is comprehensive.

As a dedicated CAC mental health partner, we are committed to supporting our CAC, and to continue meeting the licensure standards set by COMAR and our state licensing boards. The CARE Healing Center again respectfully requests that this committee return an **unfavorable** report on the bill for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,

Courtney Davis, LCPC, NCC

Clinical Director

CARE Healing Center

224. N. Center St.

Westminster, Maryland 21157

Office: (410) 857-0900 x101