



*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary*

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 770 – Public Schools and Youth Services - Crisis Support and Assistance and Workgroup Study – Letter of Support With Amendments**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for SB 770 – Public Schools and Youth Services - Crisis Support and Assistance and Workgroup Study. SB 770 requires each local school system to provide crisis support to a public school when a teacher or school employee with direct contact with minors is removed from the school due to alleged criminal activity or for student safety; requires each county board of education to establish a crisis response team; and establishes a workgroup within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to examine the impact of requiring applicants for certain positions to include information regarding the applicant's history of boundary-violating behavior.

SB 770 has the goal of ensuring mechanisms exist in local school systems to help children after an authority figure has been dismissed for inappropriate activity. The Department notes that the workgroup established by the bill will, among other duties, examine hiring practices of schools and “youth-serving organizations” to determine what could be implemented by the General Assembly to better protect Maryland’s youth. “Youth-serving organization” is defined in the bill as including, among other things, “summer camps.” “Summer camps” is not a term defined in the bill or in statute. The State does, however, have existing statutes for “youth camps,” which are regulated by the Department under §14-403 (et seq.) of the Health-General Article. A system of background checks and safeguards as originally proposed by the First Reader of this bill already exists for youth camps, and the Department would caution against creating an additional or separate background check requirement that could cause confusion.

The Department notes that the bill is primarily focused on Maryland’s state and local education systems, for which the Department does not have expertise. The Department is interested in being consulted by the workgroup for applicable information, but does not believe that a seat on the workgroup is necessary to further the legislation’s goals. Please find attached proposed

amendments to remove the Department from the workgroup while maintaining a consultation role.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA  
Acting Secretary

Attachment:  
Amendments to Senate Bill 770

## AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 770

(Third Reader File Bill)

On page 16, line 26, after “League;” insert “**and**”. Strike line 27 in its entirety. On line 28, strike “(ix)” and substitute “**(viii)**”.

On page 16, after line 28, insert: “**(3) The workgroup may consult with the Maryland Department of Health.**”