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**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**

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March 10, 2026

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama, Chair
Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Hanna Abrams, Assistant Attorney General

RE: House Bill 715 – Algorithmic Addiction Fund – Establishment
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General supports House Bill 715 (“HB 715”), sponsored by Delegate Rosenberg, with amendments. House Bill 715 establishes a fund that will direct civil penalties recovered from enforcement efforts targeted at protecting children from social media harms toward programs to improve the mental health of children and the prevention of algorithmic addiction. However, the Division requests that the language on page 3, lines 1 through 6, be clarified to expressly state that the money available for the Fund does not include money collected for restitution or the costs of investigation and prosecution.

Additionally, in conjunction with HB 715, the General Assembly is considering a bill to establish an Office of the Attorney General Enforcement Recovery Fund (House Bill 705) to receive monies collected from the Office’s enforcement efforts. The Enforcement Recovery Fund is being established to support the activities of the office including enforcement, investigation costs, and public education efforts and will be statutorily capped at \$7.5 million. We ask that the Algorithmic Addiction Fund established by HB 715 be supported by monies collected in accordance with the criteria set forth in the bill only after the Office has collected the statutory maximum established by the Enforcement Recovery Fund and the costs of enforcement have been reimbursed.

We urge the Appropriations Committee and the Economic Matters Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 715 with the amendments discussed.

Cc: Delegate Samuel Rosenberg
Members, Appropriations Committee
Members, Economic Matters Committee