



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 1012 —Public Health - Local Suicide Fatality Review Teams -
Authorization—Letter of Support As Amended**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 1012 - Public Health - Local Suicide Fatality Review Teams - Authorization. Effective October 1, 2026, HB 1012 would authorize a county or municipality to establish a local suicide fatality review team and require the local team to coordinate with the State Suicide Fatality Review Committee. The bill would also protect the deceased and their families or loved ones' privacy by exempting certain information from the Maryland Open Meetings Act or Maryland Public Information Act.

The Department supports the amendments to HB 1012 that ensure initial and ongoing coordination with the State Suicide Fatality Review Committee, protect against duplication of effort between the State and local jurisdictions, and maintain the authority of local child fatality review teams.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD
Secretary of Health