

March 31, 2026

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

**RE: House Bill (HB) 1559 – Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstay Patients – Placement – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

The Governor's Office for Children (the Office) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 1559 – Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstay Patients – Placement. The Office agrees that pediatric hospital overstays cause harm to young people and their families, and that ensuring youth do not remain in hospitals beyond medical necessity requires an all-of-government response. Such a response should require the participation of multiple Maryland state agencies, including the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS). As the office tasked with building and enhancing cross-agency partnerships, initiatives and programs to support the well-being of children and families, the Office is in support of this bill. The new Senior Advisor for Children and Families position within the Office would help ensure coordination among agencies on this issue. The Office is well-suited to assist with inter-agency coordination, and systemic decision-making, while ensuring accountability for results regarding pediatric overstays.

The Office applauds the bill sponsors for proposing mechanisms to prevent pediatric overstays and better serve Maryland children. For these reasons, the Governor's Office for Children supports HB 1559.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Andrea Barnes, Policy Advisor and Manager of Legislative Affairs at [andrea.barnes@maryland.gov](mailto:andrea.barnes@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Carmel Martin  
Special Secretary, Governor's Office for Children and Senior Advisor to the Governor for Policy