



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 870– Maryland Department of Health - Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Beds – Capacity in Prince George’s and Report - Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of concern for Senate Bill (SB) 870– Maryland Department of Health - Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Beds - Reports on Capacity and Outcomes. As amended, SB 870 requires the Department to report on adolescent psychiatric inpatient bed capacity in the State, including reporting on the related outcomes for adolescents receiving care in psychiatric inpatient beds, to the General Assembly and the Governor.

The Department is sensitive to the mental health needs of all individuals throughout the State and prioritizes the placement of both resources and services to help ensure a targeted and holistic approach is provided to match treatments with patients’ specific needs. To ensure the correct type of services are provided to adolescents within Prince George’s County, the Department would like to partner with an organization such as the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), to conduct a specific study to outline the type of resources, staffing, treatment plans, and therapeutic environments that the children would need to help ensure the best possible outcome and recovery.

The Department does not currently have the capacity and expertise to conduct the responsibilities outlined in SB 870 and as such, the Department will require additional personnel and contractual resources to conduct the work. The estimated cost for FY 2027 is \$231,320. In light of current projected general fund deficits in fiscal 2027 and beyond, the Department urges caution in passing legislation that significantly increases expenditures.

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, M.D., Ph.D
Secretary of Health