



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 24, 2026

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

RE: House Bill 658 – Maryland Department of Health - Community Forensic Aftercare Program - Established – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 658 – Maryland Department of Health - Community Forensic Aftercare Program - Established.

HB 658 will codify the Community Forensic Program (CFAP) within the Department. CFAP has been funded and operational for several years with HB 658 providing a formal statutory framework for its essential work. CFAP is a vital part to Maryland's healthcare continuum, as it monitors individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities who are conditionally released from the Department's Healthcare System under court-ordered supervision. By providing structured oversight, CFAP ensures these individuals adhere to their clinical requirements while safely transitioning into their communities.

In addition to codifying CFAP operations, HB 658 introduces a new requirement allowing an authorized agent to present information to the Community Forensic Board. Currently, the Board receives input from CFAP and the individual's community treatment team to determine recommendations for the court regarding modification to the conditions as defined in the conditional release. This provision strengthens the review process by ensuring relevant perspectives may be presented for the Board's consideration.

The Department supports HB 658 as it codifies the CFAP team and the essential work they have performed for many years. We note that the newly mandated presence of an authorized agent in Board processes introduces administrative complexities, and we remain focused on ensuring these new procedures align with our primary goal: helping monitored individuals live well and safely in their communities. The Department anticipates that the new administrative processes presented by this new requirement will require two new positions (a social worker and administrator).

If you would like to discuss this matter 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