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March 26, 2026

TO: The Honorable Will Smith
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1292 – Child Advocacy Centers – Continuity of Care Standards
for Health Care Professionals and Reports of Violations (Support)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports House Bill 1292 – Child Advocacy Centers – Continuity of Care Standards for Health Care Professionals and Reports of Violations, as amended. House Bill 1292 strengthens accountability at child advocacy centers by establishing continuity of care standards when providers of medical or mental health services change and by creating a mechanism for the reporting and investigation of complaints regarding compliance with those standards.

OAG previously submitted a Letter of Concern regarding this legislation, in which we noted that the bill, as introduced, did not clearly define the basis upon which the Attorney General would be called upon to act on a referred complaint, and expressed concern about assigning an investigatory function to OAG without the underlying subject matter expertise or enforcement authority to carry it out effectively.

The House's amendments address this concern. As amended, the bill requires that a finding by child protective services based on certain standards be made *before* a matter is referred to the Attorney General. This ensures that the determination of whether a violation has occurred rests with those who have the appropriate clinical and programmatic expertise to make it.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 1292 a favorable report.