



March 13, 2008

Delegate Peter Hammen, Chairman
Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Vice Chairman
House Health & Government Operations Committee
241 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 1395—Support

Dear Chairman Hammen and Vice Chairman Pendergrass:

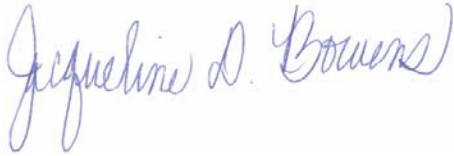
Children's National Medical Center (Children's National) supports HB 1395, the "Chronic Care and Prevention Partnership Act." Children's National believes that this bill will establish important partnerships within the community and improve coordinated care for chronic conditions for children and families in Maryland.

Children's National, a 283 bed not-for-profit academic medical center, is located in Washington, DC, but serves the pediatric health care needs of the broader Washington metropolitan region. Located just three miles from the Maryland border, Children's National annually devotes nearly 60% of our inpatient care to children from Maryland. With five outpatient centers in Maryland and specialty care services provided in eight Maryland locations, Children's National is proud to be one of the largest providers of high quality pediatric primary, specialty and emergency care to Maryland's children and families.

Children's National treats a multitude of chronic conditions and diseases among children. Children's National has established a clinic to treat asthma, which is the most common chronic condition among children and is located in Children's National's Emergency Department (ED). The clinic treats children who are normally heavily dependent upon the ED for episodic care and provides a comprehensive source of asthma education, medical care and care coordination with a primary care physician. In addition, Children's National has experienced an increase in treating type 1 diabetes, which is the most common type of diabetes in children, as well as type 2 diabetes.

Children's National's experience in treating chronic conditions and diseases has proved successful when there is a coordinated approach that involves a child's family, primary care provider, and relevant community programs. Children's National supports the approach of HB 1395, which will build regional relationships and support around the state that can be specifically targeted to treat chronic disease. Children's National stands ready to serve the task force created through HB 1395 to provide its expertise in treating the most common chronic conditions and diseases among children.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline D. Bowens
Vice President and Chief
Government & External Affairs Officer
Children's National Medical Center

CC: Members of the HGO Committee