



March 18, 2009

Delegate James Hubbard, Chairman  
Public Health & Long Term Care Subcommittee  
House Health and Government Operations (HGO) Committee  
241 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill (HB) 503—Support with Amendment

Dear Chairman Hubbard:

On behalf of Children's National Medical Center (Children's National,) I am pleased to support House Bill (HB) 503, "Health - Maryland Commission on Autism," with a suggestion for an amendment. Children's National commends Delegate Nicholas Kipke for his leadership in introducing this bill, which would create the Maryland Commission on Autism.

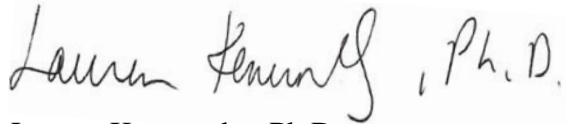
Children's National Medical Center, a 283 bed not-for-profit academic medical center, is located in Washington, DC, but serves the pediatric health care needs of the broader Washington metropolitan region. Located just three miles from the Maryland border, Children's National annually devotes nearly 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.

Our Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders treats approximately 400 children annually with these complex, developmental neurological disorders. Pediatric neuropsychologists treat these children at both the main hospital and at the Regional Outpatient Center in Rockville. The Center also has developed a postdoctoral residency program by which future pediatric neuropsychologists will participate in clinical rotations treating autistic children; as well as learn about and participate in autism research projects with Children's National pediatric neuropsychologists.

Children's National offers its strong support for HB 503 because the Commission will provide findings on resources and treatments that are available to children and adults with autism spectrum disorders; as well as provide recommendations on resources and treatments that should be made available to these children and adults. Children's National believes it is critical that the Commission focus upon the care given to these children, the education of those who treat these children, and the research currently being performed about autism. We would welcome the opportunity to participate on the Commission to share our expertise on these important matters.

Children's National Medical Center urges a favorable report to HB 503 with an amendment that would add a representative from Children's National to the Maryland Commission on Autism. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Jones, Manager of State Government Affairs, by e-mail at [tjones@cnmc.org](mailto:tjones@cnmc.org) or by phone at (202) 471-4802. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Kenworthy, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lauren Kenworthy, Ph.D.  
Pediatric Neuropsychologist  
Director, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology

cc: Members of the Public Health & Long Term Care Subcommittee  
Members of the HGO Committee  
Delegate Nicholas Kipke