

May 17, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 579 - *Children with Disabilities - Voluntary Placement Agreements*.

This bill requires the juvenile court, before determining whether a child with a developmental disability or a mental illness is a child in need of assistance, to make a finding as to whether the local department of social services made reasonable efforts to place the child in accordance with a voluntary placement agreement.

House Bill 1226, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 579.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor