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## MDAAP General Assembly Weekly Report Week ending January 15, 2021

The 2021 Maryland General Assembly commenced on Wednesday. The focus of both the Senate and House was the finalization of new operational plans that required rule changes in both the House and Senate. In addition, Committees held organizational meetings that primarily focused on how they plan to manage their hearings, voting sessions, subcommittees, briefings, etc. As noted in last week's update, 775 bills were prefiled and were therefore officially introduced this week. Most Committees held limited bill hearings. The bills which were heard were those passed by their Committee last Session, but which failed due to the early conclusion of the 2020 Session and/or were bills that were not controversial. The attached bill list does not contain any new bills as the only bills introduced as of the close of business Thursday were the prefiled bills.

Two bills supported by MDAAP were heard this week. ***Senate Bill 222: Juveniles Charged as Adults – Study and Confinement***, which is a Departmental of Juvenile Services bill which brings Maryland law into compliance with federal law and provides a framework of more timely consideration of whether a juvenile charged as an adult should be confined in a juvenile facility. There was no opposition to the legislation and its passage will ensure that Maryland does not lose federal funding. Also heard was ***House Bill 9: Family Law – Mandatory Reporter Training***, which would require the Department of Humans Services to post on its website a training course related to the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. This legislation is a reintroduction of legislation from last year that failed solely due to the early adjournment of the Session. There was no opposition.

Of note this week is the release of the *Report of the Senate President's Advisory Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion* which is attached. The report reflects a comprehensive set of recommendations related to equity and inclusion including a section specifically related to maternal child health. It includes 5 recommendations to address maternal child health inequities. The maternal child health recommendations can be found on pages 12-15.