

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

(2) To develop a coherent policy and statutory structure with respect to mandated health insurance benefits; and

(3) To recommend legislation to implement the policy developed by the Subcommittee.

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EXECUTIVE ORDER OF OCTOBER 25, 1988

01.01.1988.15

MARYLAND'S INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Congress, in 1986, enacted and the President signed Public Law 99-457, which authorizes an early intervention program;

WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes that the infant's developing physical, cognitive, and social competencies are very important, and a basic parent education and support program should be available to every family in their role as primary caregivers in the community for their children;

WHEREAS, As many as 50% of the developmental disabilities children will experience could be prevented and the effects of many other contributing factors could be alleviated with appropriate early intervention services;

WHEREAS, Early identification of potential difficulties will increase utilization of early intervention services and ultimately reduce the need for more extensive and expensive services at a later time;

WHEREAS, No one agency or discipline can meet the diverse and complex needs of infants and toddlers with special needs and their families;

WHEREAS, The Executive Department and the General Assembly have recognized that when infants and toddlers with special needs and those at risk, and their families need services from multiple agencies, the goal should be to have the services available in an accessible and flexible manner so the family does not have the burden of dealing with a fragment delivery system; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary, interagency program of early intervention services for all eligible infants and toddlers, birth through age two, and their