



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

January 4, 2016

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House of Delegates
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Chapters 513 and 512 of the Acts of 2000 (HB 300/SB 287) and Health-General § 13-1405(a)(4) - 2015 Report of the State Board of Spinal Cord Injury Research

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

The State Board of Spinal Cord Injury Research (the Board) was established by Chapters 512 and 513 of the Acts of 2000 (SB 287/HB 300) to administer a Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund (the Fund). The Board is charged with awarding research grants aimed at restoring neurological function in individuals with spinal cord injuries. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department) provides administrative support to the Board. Pursuant to this legislation, the Board is required to submit an annual report on its activities in administering the grant program, including the status of the monies in the Fund and the status of the spinal cord research projects that are funded by grants issued by the Board.

Since fiscal year (FY) 2011, monies have been unavailable to convene the Board and to fund grants for spinal cord research due to State budgetary constraints. The last time funds were awarded was in FY 2007 for multi-year projects and close-out payments on these awards were made in FY 2010. No grant awards were made from the Fund and no research activities were conducted in FY 2015. Therefore, the Department reports there are no spinal cord research projects currently supported by the Fund.

If you wish to discuss this matter, please contact Ms. Allison Taylor, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at (410) 767-6481.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Van T. Mitchell', written over the printed name and title.

Van T. Mitchell
Secretary

cc: Howard Haft, M.D., M.M.M., C.P.E., F.A.C.P.E., Deputy Secretary,
Public Health Services
Michelle Spencer, M.S., Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Allison Taylor, M.P.P., J.D., Director, Office of Governmental Affairs
Sarah Albert, MSAR # 746