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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 33**

**TITLE:**             Criminal Law - Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult -  
                              Causing Severe Emotional Distress

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Guyton

**COMMITTEE:**      Judiciary

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             January 21, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 33 – Crimes - Criminal Law - Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult - Causing Severe Emotional Distress. This bill prohibits a person from causing abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult that causes that adult severe emotional distress.

In Baltimore County we celebrate our elderly residents and strive to help those of our adult population who are most in need. Abuse of vulnerable adults, whether it be the elderly or those with intellectual disabilities, is a heinous act and one that should not be construed to be tolerated by the law in the slightest. Infliction of emotional distress is a form of abuse that, while not seen physically, is detrimental to the health and well-being of these adults. This bill would allow justice to be brought for those victims of abuse to the bad actors who inflict it.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 33. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.