

DATE: February 6, 2020

BILL NUMBER: HB 460

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

BILL TITLE: Department of Human Services - Child Abuse Prevention-Online Course

DHS POSITION: Support

The Department of Human Services (Department) respectfully offers this letter of support regarding House Bill 460. HB 460 would require the Department to publicly post online training resources for preventing, identifying, and reporting child abuse on the Department's website. By requiring the Department to provide the public with this information on the DHS website, there may be an increase in reporting child maltreatment. Ultimately, this will increase the likelihood that our children are kept safe.

HB 406 will allow mandated reporters and other constituents to be more informed about how and what to report in cases of suspected child abuse. This in turn may lead to more accurate and increased reporting of child abuse cases. Constituents who are already on the DHS website will have ready access to an invaluable resource.

This very simple but effective tool stands to benefit so many of Maryland's children and families. As such, the Department respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 460.

