

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 26, 2025

House Bill 302: Courts and Judicial Proceedings – State of Charges – Human Services Workers

****Support****

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest professional organization representing social workers nationwide. The Maryland Chapter advocates on behalf of social workers across the state.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 302, critical legislation that extends essential protections to Adult Protective Services and Child Welfare caseworkers. HB 302 simply aligns these professionals with other public servants who are already safeguarded against false or retaliatory allegations stemming from their official duties.

Specifically, this bill would require the State's Attorney to conduct an investigation and issue a recommendation before any charges can proceed when a caseworker is accused of an offense allegedly committed during the course of their work.

Given the high-stakes and often contentious nature of their responsibilities, these workers deserve the same procedural fairness already provided to other public servants. We ask for your support of HB 302 to ensure that these dedicated professionals can continue serving Maryland's most vulnerable residents without undue risk of unjust prosecution.

We request a favorable report on House Bill 302.

Respectfully,

Judith Schagrin, LCSW-C
Children, Youth and Families Committee