

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 27, 2024

Support – HB331 Election Law – Campaign Expenditures – Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

I respectfully submit HB331 for your consideration. This bill codifies a 2019 guidance letter from the State Board of Elections that authorized childcare expenses as an appropriate use for campaign funds.

The purpose of this bill is to encourage and support wider, more inclusive, participation in the political system. Currently, parents of young children and dependents with significant disabilities are disincentivized from running and serving in elected office. The importance of Codification cannot be overstated. It is necessary to protect this ruling from political changes, promote awareness, and provide piece of mind and consistency for those who may run and become elected to public office.

In addition, the House Committee adopted an amendment to clarify that adult dependents with disabilities who need care may also be covered under the authorization.

I request a favorable report on HB331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton