



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 11, 2025

Re: **SUPPORT HB 331**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Annapolis Capital and the Maryland Gazette to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association with the ACLU, Common Cause MD and Public Justice Center write in support of HB 331, which would allow the Public Access Ombudsman to delegate any of the powers and duties granted to the Ombudsman.

Recognizing that the Public Access Ombudsman has responsibility for many time-sensitive and important public information act mediations and discussions, we believe that allowing delegation of powers to the others within the office will help the office run more effectively and respond to inquiries more quickly. The rising number of cases the Ombudsman's office handles is a testament to the efficacy and need for the role; it is important that responses to complainants are addressed quickly and completely.

We urge a favorable report.



Maryland

