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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 24, 2025

To: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our strong support for **HB500: Procurement Reform Act of 2025**. This critical legislation modernizes Maryland's procurement system, increasing efficiency, transparency, and accountability—ensuring that women-owned businesses and women across the state benefit from a more equitable and accessible procurement process.

Women-owned businesses are a driving force in Maryland's economy, yet many continue to face systemic barriers in accessing government contracts and procurement opportunities. Complex bureaucratic processes, lack of transparency, and outdated procurement structures often make it difficult for women entrepreneurs and small business owners to compete on a level playing field. HB500 takes a necessary step in reforming these processes by enhancing oversight, streamlining procurement regulations, and ensuring that government contracting is conducted in a more efficient and equitable manner.

By authorizing the Secretary of General Services to delegate specific powers and duties to the Chief Procurement Officer, HB500 strengthens oversight and ensures that procurement decisions are made with greater accountability. Additionally, the bill modernizes procurement practices within the Department of General Services, the Department of Transportation, and the Maryland Transportation Authority, ensuring that women-owned businesses have improved access to contracts in these critical sectors.

Equitable procurement policies are essential for advancing economic opportunities for women. HB500 supports a procurement system that is fair, competitive, and responsive to the needs of diverse businesses, particularly those that have historically been marginalized. Ensuring that Maryland's procurement system is efficient, transparent, and accessible is not just an economic issue—it is a matter of equity and opportunity. HB500 represents a meaningful step toward breaking down barriers for women in business and ensuring that government contracts reflect the full diversity of Maryland's entrepreneurial landscape.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the Health and Government Operations Committee to issue a favorable report for HB500. Thank you for your time and commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable economy in Maryland.