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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Irnise F. Williams, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

RE: SB205- Human Services – Adult Protective Services: **Support**

The Health Education and Advocacy Unit supports the proposal of allowing the release of Adult Protective Services (APS) records without a court order to any governmental entity if the APS records are relevant to the governmental entity's investigation. This change would allow governmental agencies-including the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, the Office of Health Care Quality, and certain units within the OAG including the Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit and the Securities Commissioner to work more efficiently to protect vulnerable Marylanders. The current law requires that the Department of Human Services obtain a court order to release APS records to governmental agencies, which can be marred by obstacles and unnecessary delays. The investigation of these sensitive matters requires timely access to those records without the challenges that are currently in place.

We support this bill and ask for a favorable report.