



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary*

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building, Room 100  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0302 - COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS -  
STATEMENT OF CHARGES - HUMAN SERVICE WORKERS - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report.

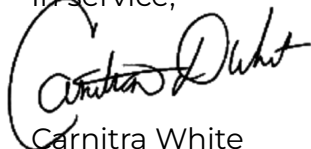
With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Under our Social Services Administration (SSA), we employ both Adult Protective Services and Child Welfare caseworkers impacted by House Bill 302 (HB 302).

HB 302 expands protections currently available to other public sector employees, such as emergency services personnel, law enforcement, and educators, when acting within the scope of their job duties. The bill creates an additional process when a request for a statement of criminal charges is filed in District Court against qualifying DHS employees. The bill would require the State's Attorney to review criminal charges filed against adult protective services workers and child welfare caseworkers – as they are currently required to review charges against police, emergency services personnel, and educators – when acting within the scope of their job duties. The State's Attorney will not pursue a prosecution if the alleged offense is committed in the course of executing official duties.

There are numerous historical instances of DHS employees charged with crimes when fulfilling their job duties. Child and adult protection workers may question the scope of their authority to act in critical moments if they are concerned necessary actions could put themselves at risk of criminal charges. Adult protective services and child welfare caseworkers often operate in high-stress environments to protect youth and vulnerable adults throughout Maryland. If HB 302 passes, adult and child protection workers would have the same shield against unwarranted criminal charges that other public servants receive. This protection and assurance would enable them to perform their job duties in service of Marylanders without fear of reprisal.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at [rachel.sledge@maryland.gov](mailto:rachel.sledge@maryland.gov).

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carnitra White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Carnitra White  
Principal Deputy Secretary