



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 7

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 680, *Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards*

Dear Chair Barnes,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 680, *Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards*.

If enacted, HB 680 would require the Governor, for fiscal years 2028 through 2031, to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Fund to be used for grants to the local management boards, ensuring a predictable funding stream to carry out this work. Additionally, the bill would rename the Children's Cabinet Fund to be the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund, emphasizing the cooperative nature of the Fund's work.

The name change reflects the multi-disciplinary approach that enshrines a whole-community, whole-government approach to align, coordinate, and maximize Maryland's investment in children. Coordinating on shared goals will help to break down siloes and allow the Fund to fully leverage power and resources to support children and local communities.

The required investment ensures that the Fund is able to act strategically, utilizing a long-term vision to unlock potential and boost opportunity. Investing in our children is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. It means investing in our families, communities, and collective future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 680. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke  
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7