



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Gloria Brown Burnett, Interim Secretary*

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 640 - Mandated Reports, Boards, and Commissions -  
Revisions - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully submits the favorable testimony for House Bill (HB) 640.

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. DHS houses the Alternative Response Advisory Council, the Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission, the Commission on Trauma-Informed Care, and the Maryland Commission on Caregiving referenced in HB 640. DHS is also responsible for reporting requirements on public prekindergarten notification outlined in Education Article § 7-1A-02.

HB 640 would modernize multiple DHS-related state boards and commissions and update our reporting responsibilities to better align with the timing of data availability through our sister agency, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). DHS is aware that our sister-agencies - the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Budget and Management - have amendments to HB 640 and DHS supports this legislation as amended.

The Alternative Response Advisory Council is inactive and repealing it from state statute would have no impact on DHS or our associated local department of social services (LDSS). Alternative Response is one method of low-risk child protective services investigations, and was fully implemented [over a decade ago](#) in 2014,

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negating the need for an ongoing advisory council. The Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Commission on Trauma-Informed Care are also inactive and have fulfilled their statutory goals, as outlined in a [recent report](#).

The independent Maryland Commission on Caregiving is active. The change proposed in HB 640 would amend their statutory membership to eliminate a defunct organization while retaining the same number of seats on the body. The spirit of these commissions will persist after the statutory sunset envisioned in HB 640. DHS infused a two-generation lens and a trauma-informed approach throughout our programs and service delivery. Our two-generation approach enables us to meet families where they are and acknowledge prior traumas they may bring to engagement with DHS or other government entities.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at [justin.hayes1@maryland.gov](mailto:justin.hayes1@maryland.gov).

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gloria Brown Burnett  
Interim Secretary