



**HB0984**

**Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment**

**Testimony before Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Hearing Date: 2/27/2026**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Crystal Konny, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB0984**, which would create a Maryland Mattress Stewardship Program in which manufacturers of mattresses and box springs sold in the state would take responsibility for the collection, renovation, recycling, and ultimate disposal of all used mattresses. The program would be funded by an assessment added to the price of mattresses paid at the time of purchase. The bill would also ban the landfilling and incineration of mattresses and box springs. We thank Delegate Hill for introducing this bill.

Mattresses are one of the most problematic items in the state's waste stream because they are bulky, heavy, and often illegally dumped. Americans send more than 50,000 mattresses to the landfill *each day*, less than 5% are recycled, but at least 75% of materials in mattresses are recyclable. Stewardship programs for mattresses are successful in four other states. A successful recycling program will make the disposal of mattresses easier for both consumers and institutions, provide many new recycling sector jobs, and benefit the environment. Additionally, it would reduce County government disposal costs thereby saving residents money.

The Mattress Recycling Council is a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs in states that have passed mattress recycling laws, was founded by the bedding industry, and recycles nearly 2 million mattresses each year. They've found that *every* mattress recycled saves 500 gallons of water, enough energy to power the average household for three days, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equivalent to driving 60 fewer miles.

Ultimately, extended producer responsibility bills like this one will incentivize the design of more sustainable products and build the supply chains necessary for a circular economy using recycled materials. The bill is a step towards reducing solid waste harm to our environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Crystal Konny  
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District 12A