



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller, Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1490 – TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE – GOOD CAUSE
AND ADEQUATE REASONS EXCEPTIONS - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1490 (HB 1490).

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. Our Family Investment Administration (FIA) implements the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program as the Maryland Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program, which is affected by HB 1490. The Child Support Administration (CSA) within DHS would also be affected by the changes proposed in HB 1490.

Under current law, when a custodial parent applies to receive TCA, unless they qualify for an exemption, the parent must agree to (1) cooperate with CSA in the establishment and enforcement of a child support order against the noncustodial parent and (2) assign the rights to receive child support payments to the State. Existing regulations outline the conditions for “adequate reason” and “good cause” for a custodial parent’s noncooperation with the TCA child support requirement ([COMAR 07.03.03.10](#)). FIA determines if “good cause” or circumstances exist in which cooperation with child support may not be in the best interest of the child. Separate from “good cause,” CSA determines whether a parent applying for or receiving TCA who does not have a FIA “good cause” exemption otherwise has “adequate reasons” for noncooperation with child support, due to circumstances beyond their control.

HB 1490 is consistent with existing DHS policy and procedures. The requirement for a TCA family to cooperate with child support is not meant to act as a barrier to financial stability for families facing a crisis or hardship. HB 1490 would largely codify existing DHS regulations regarding "good cause" or "adequate reason" determinations. DHS is supportive of HB 1490 provisions establishing new application and notification processes designed to ensure DHS provides families applying for or receiving TCA with adequate information and assistance in requesting a good cause exemption.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information 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.

In service,

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

Gloria Brown Burnett
Interim Secretary