



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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Since 2006

**TESTIMONY - HOUSE BILL 166
PUBLIC HEALTH – HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION – ESTABLISHMENT
POSITION: FAVORABLE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Carrington & Associates, LLC supports House Bill 166. House Bill 166 establishes the Henrietta Lacks Commission to advance education, oversight, and awareness regarding the legacy of Henrietta Lacks and the use of HeLa cells in medical research. The bill also requires the Commission to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on its activities related to life sciences oversight and public education.

The story of Henrietta Lacks is deeply connected to Maryland and represents one of the most important and complex intersections of medical research, ethics, equity, and public trust. Establishing a formal statewide commission provides Maryland with an opportunity to lead in acknowledging this legacy while promoting responsible innovation in the life sciences sector.

From our work with public sector and community partners across Maryland, we understand the importance of policies that strengthen public confidence in research, promote ethical practices, and support educational outreach. Creating a dedicated commission helps ensure ongoing transparency, accountability, and engagement with communities that have historically been underrepresented or impacted by medical research practices.

House Bill 166 also reinforces Maryland's role as a national leader in biotechnology and life sciences. By promoting education, awareness, and oversight, this legislation supports a stronger and more responsible research ecosystem that benefits residents, institutions, and the broader public.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 166.