

BILL NO: House Bill 0147
TITLE: Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision - Repeal
COMMITTEE: Government, Labor, and Election
HEARING DATE: January 27, 2026
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women throughout the state. As a nonprofit organization that relies on public funding to serve survivors of intimate partner violence, we strongly support efforts that strengthen nonprofit access to state resources and reduce barriers that prevent organizations from carrying out critical services.

Established by SB365/HB541 in 2025, the Nonprofit Organizations Navigator was created to serve as a critical bridge between Maryland state agencies and the nonprofit sector, particularly for small and grassroots organizations that often face significant bureaucratic barriers to accessing state funding.

House Bill 147 would eliminate the sunset provision on the Nonprofit Navigator position within the Department of Commerce, which was established just last legislative session. The Navigator is already delivering meaningful support, including assistance with state grant applications and proposal review; resolving post-award procedural issues such as payment delays and contractual or administrative barriers; and providing grant search assistance with one-on-one support to identify relevant federal, state, local, and private funding opportunities.

In addition, the Navigator offers a monthly newsletter and maintains an up-to-date online listing of current state grant opportunities. The value of the Nonprofit Organizations Navigator in strengthening nonprofit access to public funding and ensuring effective use of state resources cannot be overstated. The Women's Law Center of Maryland strongly supports the passage of HB147.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.