



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 26, 2026

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of House Bill 1300**: Maryland Commission for Women – Alterations

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 1300 (HB1300)**, legislation that modernizes and strengthens the Maryland Commission for Women and reaffirms Maryland's commitment to equity, opportunity, and inclusion for women across our state.

The Maryland Commission for Women plays a critical role in elevating the voices of women, advising policymakers, and advancing policies that promote economic security, safety, and full participation in civic life. HB1300 builds upon that mission by updating the Commission's structure and operations to better reflect the needs and realities of Maryland's diverse communities.

In Howard County, our Women's Commission provides critical programming for women across the County. Programs like the annual youth essay and art contest continues to inspire and engage youth. We also know firsthand the importance of intentional policies that support women and families. This year, I ensured menstrual product availability in all public government buildings. Women are central to our local workforce, our small business community, and our public leadership. Strengthening statewide advisory bodies like the Commission for Women helps ensure that legislation and programs are informed by lived experience, data, and best practices, ultimately leading to better outcomes at both the state and local levels.

HB1300 represents a thoughtful approach to improving governance and accountability while preserving the Commission's core purpose. By clarifying roles, enhancing coordination, and ensuring the Commission is well-positioned to carry out its statutory responsibilities, this bill will improve the effectiveness of the Commission, which many Marylanders rely upon to champion opportunity.

HB 1300 aligns with Howard County values, and we believe its passage will benefit women and all communities across Maryland. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 1300 a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive