



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 10, 2026

Delegate Nicole Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**RE: HB15-Public Information Act - Public Records - Nonprofit Organizations
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells and the Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB15. I introduced this bill after numerous news reports over the past year revealed how much taxpayers' dollars are being sent to non-profits throughout the state with very little or no oversight. This bill is intended to bring transparency to the non-profit ecosystem.

What the bill does:

This legislation requires nonprofits that receive \$50,000 or more of their annual revenue from state grants, state bond proceeds, or local impact grants to be subject to the Public Information Act. It does not place undue burden on nonprofit entities but instead introduces a balanced approach that prioritizes public access to critical financial information.

By passing this legislation, we uphold our commitment to ethical governance and fiscal responsibility while ensuring that nonprofits continue to play their important roles in serving our communities. I urge all members of this committee to support this bill and demonstrate to the public that we are dedicated not only to protecting their hard-earned tax dollars but also to strengthening the integrity of Maryland's financial practices.

Why is it needed?

Maryland is home to over 42,000 registered non-profits, representing billions in public funds spent annually. However, there are virtually no guardrails in place to ensure these funds are used appropriately. This bill represents a vital step toward ensuring accountability, transparency, and public trust in the allocation of taxpayer dollars to nonprofit organizations.

A lack of transparency undermines public confidence and makes it harder to identify inefficiencies or the misuse of resources. Given the substantial taxpayer dollars awarded to nonprofits across our state, we must adopt measures that hold these organizations accountable.

We must protect taxpayer dollars by fostering an open, equitable, and transparent process for every taxpayer. The Baltimore Sun reports that their investigation has "found a non-profit ecosystem deeply entangled with public money yet lacking a clear accounting of how much taxpayer funding it receives, where that money goes and who ultimately ensures it is being used as promised."

With the State facing a \$1.4 billion deficit, the lack of transparency around how much taxpayer money is allocated to nonprofits and how it is spent is both unacceptable and irresponsible.

Thank you for considering HB15. I ask that the Committee give HB15 a FAVORABLE report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Morgan