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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

To: Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair

Delegate Keneth Kerr, Vice Chair

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus proudly supports HB 1300 – Maryland Commission for Women – Alterations.

HB 1300 strengthens the independence and integrity of the Maryland Commission for Women by repealing the authority of the Secretary of Human Services to appoint the Commission's Executive Director and clarifying that the Executive Director is not a special appointee. The bill also updates and refines the duties of the Commission to better reflect its mission and responsibilities.

The Maryland Commission for Women plays a critical role in advancing policies that promote equity, opportunity, and well-being for women across the state. To effectively fulfill that mission, the Commission must operate with independence, stability, and a clear governance structure. Removing the appointment authority from a single executive agency reinforces the Commission's autonomy and protects it from undue political influence.

By clarifying the status of the Executive Director, HB 1300 promotes transparency and accountability in leadership. Strong, independent leadership ensures that the Commission can continue to serve as an effective advocate, advisor, and policy partner on issues impacting women and families throughout Maryland.

This legislation reflects Maryland's longstanding commitment to institutional support for women's advancement. Ensuring that the Commission has the appropriate structure and authority to carry out its work strengthens its ability to address economic equity, workforce participation, health access, and protections against gender-based discrimination.

HB 1300 aligns directly with the mission of the Maryland Women's Caucus to promote policies that support and uplift women statewide.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1300.