



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony: HB1280 - Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program - Feasibility Study
Committee: Health
Date: March 5th, 2026
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and esteemed members of the House Health Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Greg Wims, presenting House Bill 1280 - Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program Feasibility Study.

HB 1280 is a straightforward, responsible first step to seeing the fiscal impact of better supporting our caregivers.

There is a sponsor amendment to this bill, changing the responsible party for completing the report to the University of Maryland, and shifting delegation of determining appropriate stipend amounts to the University as well. The bill requires the University of Maryland, with assistance from the Department of Human Services, to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing and operating a Caregiver Infrastructure Program. The program would provide universal monthly payments to caregivers for each dependent they care for.

This bill recognizes the reality that families across Maryland live every day. Caregivers are holding our long-term care system together, supporting older adults, people with Alzheimer's or related disorders, and children and adults with developmental or functional disabilities. Yet many caregivers face financial strain, lost work hours, and tough choices that ripple through household stability and our broader economy.

That is why the study is designed to answer practical questions. The University will examine the economic impact on the State and local economies, including potential increases in labor force participation, enhanced tax revenues, and an exploration of stipend levels that can maximize economic benefit while minimizing fiscal impact. The Department of Human Services will identify funding options, administrative needs, and costs, in consultation with key State and local partners.

The bill also sets a clear timeline, with a final report due July 1, 2028, and a sunset date that keeps this effort focused and accountable.

I respectfully request a favorable report for HB1280. Thank you.