

HS 0001: State Agencies - Misconduct Related to Federal Funding - Legislative Investigating Committee: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Rules & Executive Nominations Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HS 0001**, concerning *State Agencies – Misconduct Related to Federal Funding – Legislative Investigating Committee*.

Maryland taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability when state agencies handle billions in federal funds. The cited examples alone suggest potential patterns of improper practices that could cost hundreds of millions and erode public trust. A dedicated, **bipartisan** legislative committee is the appropriate, independent mechanism to investigate thoroughly, protect whistleblowers, identify systemic issues, and recommend reforms—without relying solely on internal audits or executive branch oversight. Such a committee can help ensure that any misuse, mismanagement, or violations are properly identified and addressed. Strong oversight also helps protect taxpayers and ensures that funding intended for public programs and services is used as intended.

Transparency and accountability in the use of public funds are essential to maintaining public trust in government. When state agencies receive and administer federal funding, it is critical that those funds are used lawfully, responsibly, and in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Additionally, the ability of the legislature to investigate potential issues strengthens checks and balances within government. Careful review and fact-finding can lead to improved safeguards, clearer policies, and stronger compliance practices across state agencies.

Ensuring accountability in the management of federal funds ultimately benefits Maryland residents by protecting resources and reinforcing responsible governance.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HS 0001**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals