



## TESTIMONY

### HB1005 – Child Abuse and Neglect – Reporting (Survivor Reporting Reform Act)

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Forbes

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, CoChair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **HB1005** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

As we are learning, many adults disclose abuse only years later, often after long periods of silence shaped by fear, shame, or trauma. When they do come forward, they deserve a reporting system that is clear, accessible, and respectful. HB1005 helps create that system through a standardized form that will improve documentation, reduce barriers to reporting, and support more consistent follow-up by the appropriate agencies.

The Department of Human Services must develop a standardized written report in consultation with health practitioners, survivors of abuse, law enforcement, and State’s Attorneys. This collaborative approach ensures that the reporting process reflects the need to avoid retraumatization while serving as the foundation for pursuing justice for unthinkable crimes.

HB1005 aligns with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work centers on transparency, accountability, and justice. Ensuring that adult survivors have a reliable pathway to report abuse is essential to those values shared by all Marylanders.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1005.