

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

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Senate Bill 484 – Family Law - Family Law - Child Abuse and Neglect - Reporting

February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 484 seeks to enhance Maryland's child abuse and neglect reporting system by centralizing intake through the Department of Human Services. This legislation is a critical step toward improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our child protection efforts. By requiring all reports to be submitted directly to the Department, which will then assess their validity and assign them to appropriate local departments for investigation, the bill addresses inconsistencies in current practices and ensures a more uniform response across the state. This centralized approach will help prevent reports from falling through the cracks, allowing for quicker interventions that prioritize the safety and well-being of vulnerable children.

Additionally, SB 484 maintains essential protections for reporters while streamlining the process, reducing duplication of efforts between local departments and law enforcement, and fostering better coordination statewide. In a time when child welfare resources are stretched thin, this bill represents a practical reform that could save lives by enabling faster, more informed investigations.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McKay'.

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties