



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Stacy L. Rodgers, Acting Secretary*

April 2, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller, Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1305 - STATE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM - REPORTING -  
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

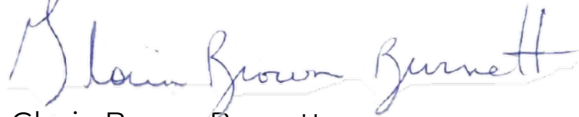
The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1305 (HB 1305). HB 1305 was reported favorably with amendments that DHS supports and passed 133-0.

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventive and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to help Marylanders reach their full potential. Our Social Services Administration (SSA) implements the Out-of-Home Care (OOH) program, which is affected by HB 1305. HB 1305 would require the State Department of Education (MSDE) and DHS to track and report the number of foster youth who enroll in college and their six-year graduation rates, alongside comparative data on children not in the child welfare system, to show disparities to the General Assembly as part of their annual reporting.

HB 1305 would provide an excellent source of data to help policymakers identify disparities in academic performance between foster youth and their peers. DHS and our sister agencies will further utilize this data to assess program effectiveness and plan for stronger support of foster youth through improving coordination, data collection, and accountability. Including comparative data on non-foster care peers will highlight the unique challenges that foster youth face, and could lead to changes to the allocation of resources to target areas of need that support better outcomes.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at [justin.hayes1@maryland.gov](mailto:justin.hayes1@maryland.gov).

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gloria Brown Burnett  
Deputy Secretary for Operations