



**Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee
February 5, 2026**

House Bill 282 - Adult Protective Services – Modifications

SUPPORT

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), we would like to express our support for House Bill 282 - Adult Protective Services APS - Modifications.

HB 282 is in response to the federal government's first APS rule, established in 2024, that seeks to provide minimum standards, response times and definitions for the work of APS to ensure uniformity, increase efficiencies and reduce inconsistencies between jurisdictions. Compliance nationally is required by May 2028. For Maryland APS, though much of this program is already in compliance, certain state statutory definitions around APS must be aligned to the new federal rule. Without these changes, Maryland risks being out of compliance with elements of the new APS rule, and hence at risk of loss of federal funding and support. Furthermore, these proposed changes will only further clarify and improve APS professionals' identification and response to cases of vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect.

By updating and ensuring compliance with key elements and definitions of an APS investigation, such as abuse or exploitation, Maryland APS is more likely to improve in its consistency and remain in step with national standards created by the federal government. This bill also provides an opportunity for APS to review referred cases of psychological harm, in addition to the areas it currently investigates. Additionally, by standardizing definitions and APS processes, the data generated will more accurately describe and create opportunities for program improvements, statewide and nationally.

Older and vulnerable Marylanders deserve to live in safety and security, and this bill will help to strengthen and improve the invaluable work that APS provides in Maryland.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 282.

Respectfully,

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