



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

February 11, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 426 - PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PROPERTY OF ALLEGED DISABLED PERSON - STAY OF CIVIL ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 426 (HB 426).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Social Services Administration implements the Adult Public Guardianship program which is affected by HB 426.

HB 426 protects the housing and financial security of a vulnerable adult during the adult guardianship process. It prevents actions that could negatively impact the ability of an individual under a pending guardianship to remain in the community. The focus of many of the services DHS provides to adults is to assist them with remaining in the community as long as that is a viable option. By putting these protections in place for individuals who are the subjects of ongoing property guardianship proceedings, this legislation supports the purpose of many of DHS's Adult Services programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer a favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. We look forward to the decision of the Committee and welcome continued collaboration on HB 426. If you require additional

information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael López', written in a cursive style.

Rafael López
Secretary