



February 26, 2026

House Bill 1326

Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records

House Judiciary Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1326 – Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records.

This Bill will expand the circumstances under which a report or record concerning child abuse or neglect may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to (1) the administrator of a child care center operated by or on behalf of a unit of State or local government or in a state-occupied building; (2) the coach, team administrator, or manager of a youth sports program; and (3) the administrator or other appropriate personnel of any organization that provides adult supervision or care and control of children.

The safety of our students and children is paramount. Current Maryland legislation authorizes the DHS to disclose a report or record concerning child abuse or neglect to the appropriate public school superintendent or the principal or equivalent employee of a nonpublic school following a report of suspected child abuse involving a student committed by: (1) a public school employee in that school system; (2) an employee of that nonpublic school; (3) an independent contractor who supervises or works directly with students in that school system or nonpublic school; or (4) an employee of an independent contractor, including a bus driver or bus assistant, who supervises or works directly with students in the school system or that nonpublic school. However, children do not just spend time in our school system. They attend athletic programs, extracurriculars, and other youth activities that contribute to their education, social development, and overall well-being. Timely notifications of any child abuse or neglect is critical in protecting our children at all times. Expanding the disclosure to include coaches, sports teams, childcare centers, and any other organization that provides supervision of children ensures that appropriate personnel or administrative actions can be taken and prevent further abuse or neglect.

For those reasons, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1326.