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The Maryland House of Delegates
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Testimony in Support of HB 1005

Child Abuse and Neglect – Reporting – Survivor Reporting Reform Act

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Judiciary

February 26, 2026

What this bill does

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to develop a reporting process for mandatory reporters when they are reporting past abuse from adult survivors.

What is the problem this bill is trying to address

Under Maryland’s current mandated reporting requirements, professionals must report suspected incidents of child abuse if suspected abuse is active, and on-going, or it is being reported by an adult survivor of past abuse.

This legislation is meant to deal with reports being made on behalf of adult survivors and was drafted at the suggestion of a group of clinicians who feel the current mandatory reporting for adult survivors can be chilling to their therapeutic relationships, cause additional trauma for survivors, and is fraught with inconsistencies.

The current mandated reporting requires the same form for reporting, whether the incident is current and happening today, or happened decades ago. [DHR/SSA 180](#) is the form that must be completed. This form does not distinguish between active abuse and past abuse. It asks questions adult survivors may not be able to answer, and awkward things, like “name of the child.” These people are adults.

What we are hoping to do is to have DHR collaborate with the interested persons: survivors, practitioners, local departments, law enforcement, and state’s attorneys to create a reporting system that is more sensitive to survivors, useful to those receiving the information, and provides clarity to the practitioners about where the reports should be filed.

Why you should vote for this bill

The current system is well-intentioned, as no one wants to allow child abuse to go unreported.

The current system is designed for active abuse situations and is unintentionally causing harm to adult survivors of child abuse. On behalf of these adults, and the professionals who care for them, I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.