



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Gloria Brown Burnett, Interim Secretary

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB1046 - SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES -
REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT - PARENTAL NOTIFICATION -
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 1046 (HB 1046)

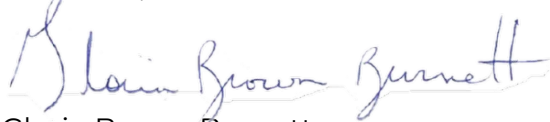
With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Social Services Administration implements the Child Protective Services (CPS) program which is affected by HB 1046. HB 1046 requires a school to notify a child's parent, guardian, or caretaker within 24 hours when a mandated reporter makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect that occurred at the school or during a school-sponsored activity. HB 1046 also directs that schools may not provide the notice if the parent, guardian, or caretaker is the alleged subject of the report.

HB 1046 would amend [Human Services § 1-202](#) to create a statutory exception to confidentiality laws governing child abuse and neglect reports, legally permitting disclosure when a report of suspected abuse or neglect occurred at the school or during a school-sponsored activity. HB 1046 intersects with [COMAR 07.02.07.21\(D\)](#) regulating confidentiality and disclosure of Child Protective Services (CPS) information. The regulation permits DHS to disclose specific information to school superintendents or principals regarding investigation involving school personnel. It does not permit schools to disclose a CPS report directly to parents or guardians.

HB 1046 would create a statutory exception resolving a conflict in state confidentiality laws. HB 1064 would permit the school to disclose the mandated report to the parent without violating state statute. HB 1046 addresses the lack of communication to parents and guardians when there are allegations of suspected child abuse or neglect that occur on school property or during school-sponsored activities. HB 1046 ensures that parents receive timely notification regarding potential maltreatment affecting their child's well-being by requiring schools to provide notice within 24 hours after a mandated reporter makes a referral to CPS.

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.

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
Interim Secretary