

# Maryland Department of Health Rare Disease Advisory Council

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary*

## *Current Members*

*Chair: Ada Hamosh,  
MD, MPH*

*Felicia Brannon, MPA*

*Celinda Carr, LCSW-C,  
CCM*

*Elisdel Garcia-Bousquet,  
MD*

*Peter Hill, MD*

*Philip Iffland, PhD*

*Senator Clarence Lam,  
MD*

*David Mann, MD, PhD*

*Matthew Meehan*

*Kristopher Rusinko,  
PharmD, PhD, MBA,  
M.Ed., MS*

*Jamie Sexton, JD*

*Lauren Shillinger*

*Constance Smith-Hicks,  
MD, PhD*

*Jeneva Stone, PhD, MFA*

*Delegate Jamila Woods*

## *Council Coordinator*

*Lauren Whiteman, MPH,  
CPH*

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair  
The Honorable Jessica Feldmark, Co-Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 9, 2026

Re: HB311  
Favorable with Amendments

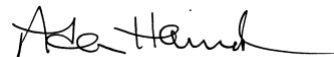
Dear Senator Wilkins and the members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) to support with amendments House Bill 311, which supports individuals with disabilities in emergency planning. The RDAC is a legislated Governor's Advisory Council tasked with improving access to care and outcomes for people in Maryland living with Rare Disease.

This bill mandates that Maryland school systems regularly review the building for ADA compliance and egress in the case of emergency. We wholeheartedly agree with this and recommend specifying "regularly" to be at least annually. Furthermore, we suggest that every student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan to have an emergency plan for management in case of emergency evacuation and lockdown. This planning should include those with cognitive and behavioral disabilities in addition to physical disabilities.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about this bill or about rare disease.

Sincerely,



Ada Hamosh, MD, MPH, Chair