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## **Delores Britt-Millhouse**

*2026 Maryland Mother of the Year® | American Mothers, Inc.®*

*Healing our children and empowering our families!*

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February 23, 2026

### **Testimony in Support of HB 901**

*Education – Public School Students – Recognition of External Diagnosis of Autism*

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Delores Britt-Millhouse. I am a resident of Legislative District 25, and I serve as the 2026 Maryland Mother of the Year® with American Mothers, Inc.®. I am testifying in my individual capacity.

I rise in strong support of House Bill 901 and in support of Delegate Denise Roberts' leadership in advancing this important legislation.

HB 901 ensures that when a qualified medical or mental health professional provides an autism diagnosis, Maryland public schools must recognize that diagnosis and provide appropriate supports while completing their own evaluation. It also requires that school-based evaluations begin within 30 days of receiving the diagnosis and parental consent, and that recommended supports continue during the review process.

This matters.

I have a niece and nephew on the autism spectrum. I have seen the stress families experience when external expertise is questioned or delayed, and when children are left waiting for supports during critical developmental windows. Delays are not neutral they affect learning, confidence, behavior, and long-term outcomes.

As Maryland Mother of the Year®, my platform focuses on strengthening family capacity, advancing equitable educational access, and ensuring youth receive timely mental and

developmental health support. HB 901 aligns directly with that work. It respects clinical expertise, honors family advocacy, and removes unnecessary barriers between children and the services they need to thrive.

This bill does not eliminate school responsibility for evaluation. It ensures continuity and collaboration. It centers the child.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 901 and thank Delegate Roberts for her commitment to families in District 25 and across Maryland.

Thank you.

*Delores Britt-Millhouse*

2026 Maryland Mother of the Year®  
American Mothers, Inc.®

Respectfully,

**Delores Brit-Millhouse**  
*2026 Maryland Mother of the Year®*  
American Mothers, Inc.®

