



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maryland's Social Services Agency



PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA ADVISORY

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**MARYLAND WEALTHIEST STATE IN THE NATION; BUT
RANKS DISMAL 41ST IN AVERAGE CHILD SUPPORT RATES**

***PUBLIC HEARINGS IN MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
TO UPDATE 20-YEAR-OLD CHILD SUPPORT REGULATIONS
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT APPROX. 2:30 P.M.***

BALTIMORE – Children who rely on child support for their financial stability would greatly benefit from legislation proposed by Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Chairman Brian Frosh (D-Montgomery) and Delegate Jeffery Waldstreicher (D-Montgomery) aimed at increasing the amount of child support to reflect the current costs of raising a child.

Specifically, the legislative proposal will: 1) provide enough financial stability for children to thrive; 2) bring the child support rates more in line with other neighboring states; 3) reduce the disparity for low-income child support payers who currently pay a much higher percentage of child support than higher-income earners.

Maryland Department of Human Resources Secretary Brenda Donald will testify in favor of the bill at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 18 in the House of Delegates Judiciary Committee. Last week, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee held its hearing on the proposal and could vote on it as early as this week.

WHO:

DHR Secretary Brenda Donald

Judiciary Committee Member Delegate Jeffery Waldstreicher

WHAT:

Public bill hearings on a proposal to update child support regulations

(House Bill 500)

WHEN:

Thursday, February 18 in the House Judiciary Committee

House Office Building

Annapolis, MD

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 760,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.

• Martin O'Malley, Governor

• Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

• Brenda Donald, Secretary