

**House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**  
February 10, 2026

**House Bill 15**  
**Public Information Act – Public Records – Nonprofit Organizations**

**OPPOSE**

The Association of Community Services (ACS) of Howard County, a 501c3 nonprofit, works to champion, strengthen, and connect our county’s nonprofits. Our eighty nonprofit members provide critical services ranging from housing to food assistance, legal services, mentoring, transportation, elder care, and more.

ACS opposes House Bill 15, which would make nonprofits receiving \$50,000 or more from State Government subject to the same public records requirements as State agencies.

We recognize the importance of accountability within our sector, but this bill adds onerous requirements without regard to the many ways in which nonprofits are already accountable for their use of funds.

- Grant agreements include reporting requirements to ensure proper use of funds.
- Nonprofits are required to file IRS 990s that, along with detailed financial information, include disclosure of salary information for key staff, names of board members, and any conflicts of interest.
- Nonprofits of certain sizes are also required to conduct annual audits or financial reviews.

In addition, HB15 would require nonprofits to keep only the information about a person that is needed to “accomplish a governmental purpose.” It appears that would limit nonprofits from maintaining information on their donors, for example, which would make it difficult to cultivate and maintain ongoing community support.

Nonprofits are already stretched as they deal with budget cuts, increasing community needs, and staff burnout. This bill adds additional, unnecessary burdens on a sector that our residents rely upon for a wide range of essential services. It should not be passed.

ACS strongly urges an unfavorable report on HB15.

Submitted by,

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Executive Director