HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay



Calvin Ball Howard County Executive cball@howardcountymd.gov www.howardcountymd.gov FAX 410-313-3051

November 19, 2019

Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair Howard County Delegation 420 Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, House Delegation Chair Howard County Delegation 101 House Office Building 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT**: Ho. Co. 37-20 – Howard County Enhancing Developmental Disability Services by Remodeling Gerwig

Dear Chair Lam and Chair Atterbeary,

I am proud to express my support for Ho. Co. 37-20, which would provide funding to Humanim, Inc. to rehabilitate the Gerwig facility which houses its Developmental Disability Services Division in Howard County.

Humanim provides over 40 programs for individuals with disabilities and socioeconomic challenges designed to build pathways to economic equity, opportunity, and independence. Their developmental disability services include community integration support, employment assistance, residential and inhome support, personal and behavioral support, and transportation services. Funding this bond initiative will allow for the rehabilitation of the Gerwig facility and create a more user-friendly space and improve functionality. When the renovation is complete, individuals with disabilities will have better access to community integration programming such as volunteer opportunities and life skills instruction.

Approximately 21,801 (7.2%) of Howard County residents have a disability. My administration has worked to improve disability services, support best practices and remove barriers to inclusion for persons with disabilities in order to improve their quality of life. I applaud Humanim's continued efforts to support the developmental disability community and the staff who serve them.

I urge your support for Ho. Co. 37-20.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball Howard County Executive