



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Delegate Jessica Feldmark, House Delegation Chair  
Howard County Delegation  
216 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT:** Ho. Co. 16-21 – Humanim – Remodeling Gerwig

Dear Chair Lam and Chair Feldmark,

I am proud to express my support for Ho. Co. 16-21, which would establish funding for Humanim, Inc. to rehabilitate the “Gerwig” facility which houses its Developmental Disability Services Division serving Howard County.

Humanim provides over 40 programs for individuals with disabilities and socio-economic challenges designed to build pathways to economic equity, opportunity, and independence. Humanim’s developmental disability services include community integration support, employment assistance, residential and in-home support, personal and behavioral support, and transportation services. The Gerwig facility rehabilitation will create a more user-friendly space and improve facility functionality. Support for this bond initiative will directly support the 500 clients and 200 Humanim staff that can use the building to train and integrate into the larger community.

This year, my administration awarded Humanim, Inc. with a \$50,000 Innovation Fund grant to finance the development of a new comprehensive model of business ownership for Direct Support Professionals working directly with adults diagnosed with developmental disabilities. The FY21 Operating Budget also provided Humanim with \$225,542 in combined Community Service Partnership grants and one-time funding to support the employment services they provide to students and adults with disabilities.

My administration supports inclusive efforts that remove barriers for individuals with disabilities to participate in the local workforce and contribute to Howard County’s vibrancy. Thriving and healthy residents are a key pillar for measuring Howard County’s progress. The remodeled Gerwig facility will demonstrate our shared commitment barrier to providing meaningful and empowering opportunities for all, regardless of disability. I urge your support for Ho. Co. 16-21.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive