

**Testimony**  
**House Bill No. 1285**  
**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**Representative Austen Schauer, Chairman**  
February 2, 2023

Chairman Schauer, and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Chris Jones, the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). The Department is providing testimony in opposition of House Bill 1285.

The Department of Health and Human Services brings legislation forward because federal requirements that change, federal laws that happen, necessary clean-up, or to proposed changes based on the Governor's recommended budget. It is the Department's responsibility to review those federal laws to determine how they impact our programs or our financing of our programs and to make sure that those things are brought forward to the Legislative Assembly so that state statute is not inconsistent with federal statutes when it is a requirement of participating in those federal programs. Many of the bills are very specific subject matter expertise type reviews and changes and often we are the only people who testify in our hearings.

In addition, the Department also needs to amend prior legislative actions, current state laws, to address inconsistencies in state law, federal law, and federal regulations.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.