



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

press@oag.state.md.us

410-576-7009

Attorney General Brown Pushes Back Against Rollback of Civil Rights Protections by U.S. Department of Energy

BALTIMORE, MD (June 17, 2025) - Attorney General Anthony G. Brown is standing with attorneys general across the country to oppose a plan by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that would weaken civil rights protections against discrimination based on race, sex, and disability.

The Department of Energy recently proposed changes that would eliminate key rules that protect people's rights in federally funded programs and buildings. These rules are based on long-standing civil rights laws—like the Civil Rights Act, the Education Amendments, and the Rehabilitation Act—that help ensure equal access to education, healthcare, housing, and more. In making these changes, the DOE is improperly seeking to end-run the ordinary rule making process and limiting the opportunity of the public to comment.

Attorney General Brown and other state leaders are urging DOE to reverse course. They submitted a total of four official comments explaining how the proposed changes would:

- Make it harder to investigate and stop discrimination in federally funded programs.
- Remove accessibility rules that ensure people with disabilities can use DOE-funded buildings like schools, labs, and energy facilities.
- Violate federal law by skipping the usual rulemaking process that requires careful review and public input.

DOE's plan is part of a fast-track process that limits public input and allows the new rule to take effect automatically unless enough people speak out.

Attorney General Brown says Marylanders—and all Americans—deserve a fair chance to access public programs and services, without facing discrimination or barriers.

Copies of the letters can be found below:

[Comment on Direct Final Rule Regarding Rescinding Regulations Related to Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs or Activities](#)

www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov

Significant Adverse Comment and Request for Immediate Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule “Rescinding New Construction Requirements Related to Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs or Activities”

Significant Adverse Comment to Direct Final Rule Rescinding Regulation Related to Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

Significant Adverse Comment to Direct Final Rule Rescinding Regulation Related to Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Sports Programs Arising Out of Federal Financial Assistance

###

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2025/061725c.pdf>