

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera  
Chief Judge

580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 101  
Courts – Court Dog and Child Witness Program - Established  
**DATE:** January 8, 2020  
(1/9)  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 101. This bill would establish Court Dog and Child Witness Programs in each circuit court on a voluntary basis.

The Judiciary supported the creation of the pilot program in 2016 which is now fully operational in both circuit courts. This pilot reduces the potential traumatic impact of giving testimony for child witnesses. The Judiciary continues to support this important endeavor and the opportunity for other jurisdictions to participate if they have the necessary resources.

cc. Hon. Bryan Simonaire  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor