
Kimberly Haven

February 19, 2020

Chairman Smith
Vice Chair Waldstreicher
Members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee

SB 513 – Conditions of Pretrial Release-
Home Monitoring
Position: SUPPORT

My name is Kimberly Haven and I am in support of SB 513.

As one of the leading criminal justice advocates in our State, I urge this committee to support this legislation.

As Maryland has continued to accommodate our bail reform efforts and address the issues with our pretrial systems, the use of home monitoring has become an option available to the courts and defendants.

Pretrial home monitoring allows an individual who has only been accused of an offense to remain in their community while still being accountable. This allows them to keep or get jobs, maintain family relationships and attend programs such as drug treatment or counseling. Being able to remain in the community also provides them the opportunity to participate in their defense.

At issue, however, is the defendant who is indigent and cannot pay the monitoring fee. These individuals will have no other option but to remain incarcerated until their trial date.

The State could realize significant cost savings by absorbing the cost of the home monitoring service versus the costs of incarcerating an individual while they await trial.

I urge a favorable report on SB 513.

Respectfully,
Kimberly Haven