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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 595 February 20, 2020 DOROTHY J. LENNIG, LEGAL CLINIC DIRECTOR

The House of Ruth Maryland is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. Senate Bill 595 would require a person requesting rescission of a protective order to state with particularity the reasons for the request and would permit the court to deny the rescission if the person eligible for relief objects. We urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 595.

Under current law, a court may rescind a protective order after notice to both parties and a hearing, but provides no further requirements for the process. SB 595 would require the person filing to rescind the protective order to state the reasons for their request with particularity, thus providing further clarity in the process and more detailed notice to the other party.

The House of Ruth urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 595.