

Bill Number: HB552
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 552
JUVENILE COURT – WAIVER OF JURISDICTION –
CONSIDER VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

I write in support of House Bill 552 which would require a court who is considering waiving a juvenile up from juvenile court to adult court to consider a victim impact statement in their decision.

Currently victims of crime have a right to offer victim impact statements at waiver hearings. The law now reads that the court **may** consider this testimony. House Bill 552 does a very simple thing. It says a court **shall** consider this victim impact testimony.

House Bill 552 does not change any of the factors that a court must examine. It does not change the burden of proof for waiver which still falls upon the State. All House bill 552 does is give the victim a voice in this important court proceeding.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 552.