

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 69

“MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS OFFICE – ESTABLISHMENT”

EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (EHE) COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

My name is Ben Yelin, and I am the Program Director for Public Policy & External Affairs at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security, and an adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I am speaking today on behalf of myself, the Center, and our Founder and Director Michael Greenberger. The Center provides comprehensive consulting services in the fields of emergency management and homeland security to governmental and institutional organizations, covering cybersecurity, emergency management, health security, and a variety of other services. The Center has developed, for example, cyber preparedness and response frameworks for Montgomery County and Prince George’s County. The Center also oversees new graduate specialties in cybersecurity and crisis management at the law school, where our Center has taught many courses in these areas, including Law and Policy of Cybersecurity and Law and Policy of Cyber Crimes. Both Professor Greenberger and Markus Rauschecker, the Center’s Cybersecurity Program Director, serve by appointment of the Maryland Attorney General on the Maryland Cybersecurity Council.

We are all familiar with the damage wrought by cyber attacks, such as the ransomware attack in Baltimore City that cost over \$18 million in system restoration and delayed or lost revenue, and the more recent attack on the Baltimore County school system. To better prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from cyber attacks in the future, Maryland needs a coordinated infrastructure to integrate information, best practices, and resources across the state.

If passed, Senate Bill 1036 will do just that: establish a Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office will improve local, regional, and statewide cybersecurity readiness and response. Because MEMA interfaces daily with state and local entities, it is perfectly situated to accomplish the mission set forth in SB1036:

- Assist in the development of local cybersecurity disruption plans;
- Coordinate with state and local entities on the implementation of cybersecurity best practices;
- Coordinate with local jurisdictions and agencies on the implementation of the Department of Information Technology’s Statewide Master Plan; and
- Work with the State Chief Information Security Officer and the Secretary of Information Technology to ensure that local jurisdictions and agencies have the resources they need for cybersecurity readiness and response.

This mission is essential to protecting the information technology infrastructure and functions of Maryland and its political subdivisions. I thank you for your attention to this threat and your commitment to protect all Marylanders from the risks posed by cyber attacks.