



www.marylandwomen.org

Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

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The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate David Moon, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 101 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB296-Interim and Temporary Protective Orders-Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings

Dear Delegates Clippinger and Moon and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Commission urges you to support HB 296—Interim and Protective Orders-Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing legislation.

The MCW was established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office of the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include: study the status of women in our state, recommend methods of overcoming discrimination, recognize women's accomplishments and contributions, and provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning women in our state. It is to fulfill this mandate that the Commission writes to you today.

(The positions expressed in this letter are those of the Commission for Women and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Governor of the Department of Human Services.)

People who seek protective orders are dealing with stressful and often dangerous situations. In order to lessen the burden on those seeking this relief, we support efforts, like HB 296, that expand their pathways to security.

Currently, if a victim of abuse is in the hospital or an urgent care setting, they cannot leave that location protected from their abuser.

HB 296 proposes to expand access to safety through the courts by enabling petitioners eligible for protective orders who are seeking medical treatment in a hospital or urgent care setting, to petition for an interim or temporary protective order from that setting.

Advancing Solutions for Maryland Women

This legislation would require the court or the District Court Commissioner to hold a hearing for an interim or temporary protective order through video conferencing, under certain circumstances.

The bill would authorize a hospital or urgent care setting to allow an individual in their care to make an electronic filing or attend a video conference while in the hospital or urgent care location.

Enactment of HB 296 would give victims the ability to secure protection before they leave the medical setting and have that security upon departure.

We urge you to support HB 296-The Interim and Temporary Protective Orders-Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings legislation.

With very best regards,



Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women