



# NAACP

*Maryland*  
STATE CONFERENCE

February 27, 2024

Judiciary  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: HB 27 – No–Knock Warrants

Members of the Committee,

As the Executive Director of the Maryland NAACP, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 27, which seeks to repeal the authority for the issuance and execution of no-knock search warrants in our state. This crucial legislation also establishes guidelines for the execution of search warrants to ensure the protection of the rights and safety of Maryland residents.

No-knock search warrants have been a contentious issue, particularly in communities of color, where they have often been used disproportionately and have resulted in tragic consequences. The use of no-knock warrants undermines trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and they pose significant risks to both officers and civilians.

HB 27 takes a critical step forward in addressing these concerns by requiring that officers announce their purpose and authority before entering a building, apartment, premises, or place. This announcement ensures that occupants are aware of the presence of law enforcement officers and have the opportunity to respond peacefully. Additionally, the bill limits the hours during which a warrant may be executed, further safeguarding the rights and well-being of individuals during these potentially intrusive actions.

Furthermore, HB 27 mandates that officers give reasonable notice before entering certain areas to be searched, allowing occupants the opportunity to cooperate with law enforcement and protect their property. This requirement promotes transparency and accountability in the execution of search warrants, reducing the likelihood of mistaken raids and unnecessary use of force.

The Maryland NAACP firmly believes that HB 27 is a critical piece of legislation that will promote justice, equity, and safety for all Maryland residents. By ending the use of no-knock warrants and implementing common-sense guidelines for the execution of search warrants, we can protect the rights and dignity of our communities while ensuring the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.

We urge all members of the Maryland Legislature to support HB 27 and take a stand against the unjust and dangerous practice of no-knock search warrants. Together, we can work towards a more just and equitable criminal justice system that respects the rights and humanity of all individuals.

In Service,

NaShona Kess, Esq., MLS

Executive Director, NAACP Maryland State Conference

[NaShonakess.mdnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:NaShonakess.mdnaacp@gmail.com)