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*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*



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## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 758**

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Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's (GOCPP) role is to advise the Governor on criminal justice strategies, coordinate across public safety agencies, and allocate resources Statewide to support public safety.

Senate Bill 758 defines consent, lists elements that establish consent or the lack thereof, and establishes nonconsensual sex, even absent force or the threat of force, as second-degree rape. Current law requires proof of force or threat of force to establish second-degree rape. Requiring prosecution to establish force or a threat of force creates a barrier to accountability for sexual predators and justice for survivors.

Rape is one of the most cruel and damaging acts one human can commit against another. It undermines an individual victim's feeling of safety and bodily autonomy. By eliminating the elements of force or threat, SB758 will send a clear message to would-be perpetrators that there is no gray area – sex without clear and voluntary agreement is a crime.

**GOCPP urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to favorably report on Senate Bill 758.**