## PAUL D. CORDERMAN Legislative District 2 Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

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Capital Budget

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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair Will Smith Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher 2 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 575 – Court Personnel – Protection of Personal Information (Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act)

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB75 Court Personnel – Protection of Personal Information (Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act). In October of 2023, the Washington County community and most notably, the Wilkinson family, suffered an unimaginable tragedy when Circuit Court Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson was murdered in the driveway of his own home. Left behind is his beloved wife, Stephanie, as well as their two children, Caroline & Grant. This vicious attack on a member of the Maryland Judiciary leaves an indelible mark on our state, and it warrants immediate action to protect not only our judicial officers, but also their families, in the hope that a similar incident can be avoided in the future.

SB 575 authorizes the Office of Information Privacy in the Administrative Office of the Courts to request that a governmental entity or person not publish personal information of certain protected individuals on the internet, social media, or social networks. Additionally, this bill provides a process of removing existing personal information that is displayed on the internet, social media, or social networks. If the information that was requested to be removed is not, there are civil and potential criminal penalties for an offending party.

These threats are real, they happen to real people, they have happened in our state, and they happen and affect the families of the judicial officers who serve our communities. Members of the Maryland Judiciary serve because they care deeply about their communities and our state, despite the additional safety risks associated with their role. As legislators, it is our obligation to support legislation that protects both them and their families from the most harmful situations. Thank you for your consideration as I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 575.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Corderman

District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties