

*STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR*



*WES MOORE,
GOVERNOR*

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Dear Chairman Smith and Vice-chair Waldstreicher,

On behalf of Governor Wes Moore, I urge a favorable report of SB575/HB664, Court Personnel - Protection of Personal Information, the Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act.

This legislation would allow judges to request that their personal information, or the personal information of their families, not be published or otherwise made available to the general public. The legislation also sets penalties for a person who knowingly publishes a judge's personal information, and establishes a Judicial Address Confidentiality Program in the Administrative Office of the Courts' Office of Information Privacy.

Judges have long been the targets of violent acts and hostile behavior. Despite the enactment of federal legislation protecting federal judges, the personal information of Maryland judges remains exposed and they remain vulnerable. This is a matter of life or death, and we must not wait any longer. Judge Wilkinson spent his career in defense of justice. Unfortunately, he was left defenseless on October 19, 2023, when a disgruntled litigant took his life in front of his own home. Keeping our communities safe is one of the Moore-Miller Administration's guiding principles. Our judges are public servants on the frontline every day ensuring the safety of our communities. We must in turn ensure that we are doing all within our power to protect them from bad actors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Luedtke".

Eric Luedtke
Chief Legislative Officer
Office of Governor Wes Moore