

Maryland General Assembly Judiciary Committee

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB27 NO-KNOCK WARRANTS**

February 23, 2024

Presbyterians for Police Transformation
c/o Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

We are grateful for the opportunity to offer strong support for HB27 No Knock Warrants, sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero. We endorse both the legislation's goal of eliminating no knock warrants as well as limiting the hours that warrants can be served.

Members of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church are active in anti-racism work including efforts to redefine public safety and transform policing through the efforts of our working group, Presbyterians for Police Transformation. We have been studying and advocating for changes that will place the sanctity of life above all else, in other words to create a guardian rather than a warrior culture within police departments.

Banning no knock warrants is a needed addition to the Police Accountability Act of 2021 to further that goal. Surprising someone by forcing entry into one's home unnecessarily creates a response controlled by instinct rather than an understanding of the situation. This frequently ends in tragic and avoidable deaths or serious injuries to the people inside, the police and/or innocent bystanders. And to what end? To confiscate evidence. That is troubling as it seems to us that evidence is seen as more valuable than a human life.

We urge you to unanimously pass HB27.

Sincerely,

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