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## **Testimony in support of SB0655**

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I write today to strongly support SB0655 (Courts – Artificial Intelligence Evidence Clinic Pilot Program – Establishment). As Generative AI systems (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Dall-E etc.) become more powerful, their ability to generate content that is realistic and plausible but completely fake has blurred the lines between true and false information in the public domain. This “data/knowledge poisoning” creates a problem when we are looking for evidence to support a hypothesis. With this technology now crossing national boundaries (e.g. DeepSeek), we also have the potential of its misuse by nation state adversaries.

One key issue confronting the judicial system from these developments is what evidence in a trial can be trusted. This is especially true if the evidence seems incontrovertible at a first glance, like the video of a person committing a crime or the audio of a person confessing to committing a crime. AI can be used to generate or manipulate such evidence, making its traditional trustworthiness potentially suspect.

Very recently in Maryland, generated audio was used to frame a person for alleged racial bias. The generation was done by a relative amateur, so it was eventually caught. This however required experts, including a Professor from UC Berkeley from what I understand. However, if the generation is done by experts, it is much harder to detect. In general, Maryland courts would not have the expertise to do such analysis for any evidence where there was a suspicion of it being generated.

The proposed SB0655 takes a step in addressing this challenge. Creating a clinic that leverages the expertise of Maryland students and faculty to support the court makes great sense. These students are taking courses at institutions such as UMBC in the cutting edge of AI, especially generative AI, as well as its cybersecurity implications. Traditionally, expert witnesses from either side present opinions. However, having students/faculty from Maryland academic institutions as neutral experts that assist the court would be beneficial, especially when a party does not have the resources to hire experts. This would also benefit the students, who will see the real-world implications of what they have learned, and faculty, who would be able to better design course and lab work based on this field experience. Providing modest financial assistance for this clinic is critical in the success of this effort. For these reasons, I urge the committee to view this bill favorably.