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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 29, 2025

The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 286: *Domestic Partnership and Marriage - Required Information*

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Under current Maryland law, there are specific requirements for registering a domestic partnership or obtaining a marriage license. They include information like full legal name, address, date of birth, marital status, and so on.

However, Domestic Partnership statute, Estates & Trusts, § 2-214 does not currently comply with federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C. § 666 Requirement of statutorily prescribed procedures to improve effectiveness of child support enforcement. 42 U.S.C. § 666 requires "each State [to] have in effect laws requiring the use of the following procedures, consistent with this section and with regulations of the Secretary, to increase the effectiveness of the [child support enforcement] program which the State administers under this part."

As part of this mandate, 42 U.S.C. § 666 (13)(A) requires states to collect the social security numbers of people applying for certain licenses including: marriage licenses, professional licenses, drivers' licenses, hunting licenses, etc. so that the division of child support enforcement can perform a data match to find individuals who owe child support.

Senate Bill 286 simply adds the reporting of both party's social security numbers to the registration, and that these registrations are made with the register of wills. It's a minor change that will add another layer of verification to the registration process and help to ensure we do not lose federal funding for programs like *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 286 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.